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Japan

Watanabe Schedules Trips to Washington, Moscow

OW1801065492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0637 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will visit Washington and Moscow during next two weeks to attend an international conference on assistance to the former Soviet Union and a multilateral conference of the Middle East peace talks. Watanabe will leave for the United States on Monday to represent Japan at the Conference on Humanitarian Aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] to be held Wednesday and Thursday. Participants at the conference will come from 47 countries and seven international organizations.

At the conference, which was proposed by U.S. President George Bush last December, Watanabe will announce Japan's additional 6.5 billion yen worth of food and medical supplies in grant-in-aid to the CIS. Japan has already extended a 1 billion yen grant-in-aid package of food and medicine to the CIS.

Prior to the conference, Watanabe is scheduled to hold a breakfast meeting with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle on Tuesday, and also hold talks with Secretary of States James Baker and Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney separately later in the day.

Watanabe is expected to tell U.S. leaders that Bush's visit to Japan earlier in the month was successful, and to confirm Japan-U.S. cooperation in assisting the CIS, Japanese officials said.

Middle East peace problems, alleged nuclear arms development in North Korea and nuclear arms control in the CIS are also expected to be discussed in Watanabe's meetings with Baker and Cheney, the officials said.

After returning home Friday to address the Diet, Watanabe will leave for Moscow on Saturday to hold talks with Russian leaders and to attend the multilateral conference of the Middle East peace talks which will start on January 28. More than 30 countries are expected to attend the conference considered as the third stage of the stalemated Middle East peace talks.

Watanabe is expected to discuss with Russian leaders a territorial problem and the timing of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan. Japan has long called for the return of four islands off Hokkaido which were seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II. Watanabe is scheduled to return to Tokyo on January 29.

Watanabe, Sakurauchi View Remark on U.S. Labor

OW2101081392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0752 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Washington, Jan. 20 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe distanced the government Monday from remarks by Japanese House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi on Sunday that American workers are lazy and about 30 percent of them are illiterate.

"I do not share the view of Mr. Sakurauchi in his reported remarks," Watanabe said in a statement apparently issued to avert a backlash of anti-Japan sentiment in the U.S.

"I do not believe those remarks reflect the way of thinking of the Japanese people in general," Watanabe said, adding he understands that both the productivity of the U.S. labor force and its literacy rate are "quite high."

"I'm aware that the U.S. economy is sluggish now and I hope it will recover as soon as possible," said Watanabe, who is in Washington to attend a meeting on aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Sakurauchi, who once served as foreign minister and secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), reportedly said in a speech to constituents in Shimane Prefecture, western Japan, that the root of the Japan-U.S. auto trade imbalance is "the deteriorating quality of American workers."

The mass circulation YOMIURI SHIMBUN on Monday quoted Sakarauchi as saying U.S. managers cannot issue written orders because about 30 percent of Americans cannot read.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry spokesman in Tokyo conveyed Tuesday to foreign correspondents the contents of a statement issued by Sakurauchi's office, though he denied acting as an official conduit for the statement.

Spokesman Sadaaki Numata said the ministry contacted Sakurauchi to learn the "true intent" of his statement and was told by the politician he was "personally concerned" about the reports, which were "liable to cause misunderstanding."

Numata paraphrased Sakurauchi as saying he felt it very regrettable some of his expressions were insufficiently explained in the reports and did not mean for them to be taken as if he was "disparaging or slighting American workers."

Numata said Sakurauchi denied making such reported remarks as "the U.S. is Japan's subcontractor" or "30 percent of the U.S. work force is illiterate."

He quoted Sakurauchi as saying he merely meant to refute the "one-sided argument" attributing the failure of U.S. products to sell well in Japan to the allegedly closed nature of its market.

Sakurauchi also said it was his wish to see the U.S. and Japanese economies as "the most competitive in the world."

Miyazawa Discusses U.S. Ties, Domestic Issues

OW2101000692 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1300 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa by commentator Korehito Obama and announcer Miyuki Morita at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo on 20 January—recorded: "The World in Upheaval and the Course of Japan"]

[Text] [Obama] Prime Minister Miyazawa, thank you very much for joining us today.

[Morita] You must find yourself very busy since the beginning of the year, what with dealing with U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan and your own visit to the Republic of Korea immediately afterward. Moreover, the ordinary Diet session is scheduled to open next week....

[Miyazawa, interrupting] Well, sometimes I wonder if it is really just 20 days that have passed since New Year's Day. I guess I did not make a very good start because I am a slow starter and still unfamiliar with my new job. But I prepared the 1992 budget plan before New Year's Eve and then met with President Bush and President No Tae-u. Taking into account recent drastic changes in the international situation, I am just doing my best not to lead the nation the wrong way.

[Morita] You said that this has not been a very good start for you. In connection with this, how do you assess the three months since your inauguration as prime minister?

[Miyazawa] To be honest with you, I feel like the three months have passed in the twinkling of an eye. On the other hand, as I have just told you, I feel like so many days have passed since New Year's Day. I think my sense of time is still confused.

[Obama] As you mentioned earlier, the world faced drastic changes last year, and many further changes are expected this year.

[Miyazawa] I agree.

[Obama] Under such circumstances, Japan and the United States will have to play the key role in a complicated world. Let me first ask: what is your blueprint for Japanese-U.S. ties in the new period?

[Miyazawa] As Mr. Obama noted, we are facing a time of drastic changes, or the so-called post-cold war period. Although it is called the post-cold war period, I think the period is significant as a time when something new is taking place, rather than something old ending. During the previous extraordinary Diet session, I advocated that this period be defined as a time for building a new order in international peace and democracy.

I agree with you on the point that the trend will continue this year. Under these circumstances, the United States and Japan are responsible for working together to promote peace, democracy, and the market economy system since these two nations are the world's biggest and second-biggest economic powers. When Mr. Bush visited Japan, we issued the Tokyo Declaration to clarify this resolve to the world. From my perspective, my recent summit talks with Mr. Bush discussed the two nations' joint responsibility in the international community in connection with Japanese-U.S. relations for the coming several decades, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. But apart from the main topic, there were also some difficult questions between the two nations.

[Obama] The U.S. presidential election will be held this year. From our observations so far, the focal point of the 1992 presidential election probably is whether the United States should give priority to domestic policies or, as is often stressed by President Bush, the nation should maintain its current policy of attaching importance to its international role. There is concern that if the United States adopts a policy with too much emphasis on domestic affairs, the nation would gradually lean toward isolationalism. What is your opinion?

[Miyazawa] Well, the word used often in this case is the home account book called the pocketbook. There are the questions of living, commodity prices, and so forth. There is also the serious problem of unemployment this time. In the end, after all, most voters are concerned not with international issues but with domestic issues. It is easy to fight an election when the economy is brisk, but I guess the President will have a hard time surviving this election. Still, we must depend on the United States to carry out its international roles. When Mr. Bush was here, I told him we will provide what support we can now that the U.S. economy is in difficult condition. On the other hand, I told him, the world will fall into trouble if the United States does not carry out its international role. I guess Mr. Bush will have to have a hard fight during the presidential election since it is impossible to immediately settle the unemployment problem and other economy-related difficulties facing his nation.

[Morita] Now, when Western nations are no longer cooperating in the face of the great presence of the Soviet Union, if we look at Japanese-U.S. relations anew, it is clear that only shaking hands is not enough. It is sometimes necessary that they confront each other head on. I feel that the Japanese-U.S. relationship has come to a turning point.

[Miyazawa] What Miss Morita said is also in the mind of many Americans. The United States has confronted the Soviet Union for a long time. Now that the Soviet Union has gone, what will be the object against which to compete? But it would not make sense for Japan to assume that role. Japan and the United States have absolutely the same sense of values. I have said this often. The United States is a kind of competitive society—a society which likes to have an opponent for a target, as a way of encouraging itself. But if the replacement for the Soviet Union is to be Japan, we cannot be happy about that. [chuckles] Just because the Soviet

Union has been a threat to the United States, there is no reason why Japan should be a threat to the United States. Still, there is the feeling that Japan is the object of direct criticism.

Mr. Bush is well aware of this sort of thing and assures me that this will not happen. Still, there is the serious thing called unemployment. Layoffs mean that a mother has to tell her children that their father will not be going to work starting tomorrow. The whole home suddenly falls into darkness and has to live on free food stamps. One-tenth of American homes are said to be in that state. After all, unmployment is serious. Of course, there is no reason to say that this situation happened because of Japan. But if people are told that the U.S. trade deficit with Japan is the greatest of its trade deficits with other countries, then some of them do come to the conclusion that Japan may be the reason.

[Obama] When President Bush was here, you promised him a Plan of Action. I think that if that is not implemented, ill feelings toward Japan will grow very strong.

[Miyazawa] That is a difficult issue, to be sure. Japan is a market-oriented economy. The number of guaranteed U.S. auto parts purchases from now until 1994 or U.S. cars purchases—these are a type of forecast. But I think the figures thought to be guarantees were provided to us by industry; these were the figures presented to the United States. Strictly speaking, however, we live in a market economy. These figures are companies' targets rather than firm promises.

[Morita] President Bush suffered from that incident right here in this prime minister's residence. He appears to be healthy and active since then. Have you heard from him?

[Miyazawa] Yes, he regained his health immediately. When departing the country, he thanked me for caring for Mrs. Bush and him. He asked if I had to pay the laundry charges. [laughs]

[Obama] Since the Soviet Union has been dissolved, I think the question of how its nuclear arms should be controlled or abolished has become a common topic of concern to the whole world and mankind. There will be a UN Security Council summit late this month. You will be attending, correct?

[Miyazawa] The Diet is just about to open. This is a very inconvenient time. If the Diet permits me to do so, I think I will have to go to the meeting.

[Obama] Will the question of controlling nuclear arms be a topic of discussion?

[Miyazawa] I think naturally that will be taken up. It is not clear how things are being done in the Soviet Union—or shall I call it the former Soviet Union. Even abolishing the weapons will cost a lot of money. It will take technology too. That being the case, the nations will give their views on how things should or should not be done. Most likely the Soviet Union is already aware of the problems. But I do not expect a decision to be made at that stage of the meeting.

[Obama] There are news reports that technicians participating in the production of nuclear arms in the Soviet Union have been recruited by other countries or that raw materials like plutonium are flowing out of the Soviet Union.

[Miyazawa] U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney briefed me on this. That was the first thing he told me upon arriving. There is not much to worry about on nonmobile weapons. But there are mobile weapons—small and tactical. They can be easily moved. Another problem is the people involved. These people are bound to lose their jobs. Hence, if developing countries want them, there is no way to prevent them from going there. Mr. Cheney said that he was most worried about that. It may be that what he feared is slowly becoming reality.

[Morita] Russian President Yeltsin reportedly intends to attend the UN Security Council summit meeting. Is an individual meeting planned?

[Miyazawa] I think that it would be most difficult to hold such an individual meeting. The summit meeting has been planned for only one day. During the day, the secretary general will host a luncheon for the summit participants. There will be 15 participants in all at the meeting. If one participant spends 15 minutes for his address, four hours are required for all the participants to deliver their addresses at the summit talks. A one-day schedule for the summit talks is too tight and some participants will return to their countries shortly after the meeting. Mr. Yeltsin is set to return home after meeting with Mr. Bush in Washington. I think that the summit talks will be held on Friday and the participants are expected to return home during the weekend because they are busy people. Therefore, any individual contact among the summit participants would be difficult.

[Morita] I think that in maintaining relations with the former Soviet Union in the future, economic assistance will become most important. What do you think?

[Miyazawa] We have to call that country the former Soviet Union as you just mentioned. I do not know how many countries will be born from the former Soviet Union. I also do not know how long it will take to found those countries. Therefore, I do not know how to deal with our relations with those countries. In this cold winter, if the price control is lifted, shortages of goods and medicine would be acute. Japan will help them ease such shortages by all means. Although Japan plans to do this, it is yet unclear what the former Soviet Union would be like and who will assume responsibility for repaying money we lend. The summit talks to be held in New York might be a venue where an agreement would be reached on promoting assistance to that country. I believe that since the future of the former Soviet Union remains unpredictable, the summit talks will agree only on principles.

[Obama] If the present situation in the former Soviet Union gets worse, if refugees flee from that country, and if nuclear proliferation occurs, the situation would become serious.

[Miyazawa] Yes, you are right. Such a big nation was dissolved. The Communist Party and the KGB were dismantled. I hope that, although it will take time, the former Soviet Union will move toward a market economy and peace. If the former Soviet Union does not move in that direction, it would cause refugee and nuclear proliferation problems. I believe that other nations have no choice but to discuss what they should do to avert such problems. What is occurring in the former Soviet Union is an event that takes place once in many centuries [laughing].

[Obama] Japan is economically strong and is presently in a good economic situation. Will it not play a key role in providing assistance to the former Soviet Union?

[Miyazawa] Yes, I believe that Japan will play a key role. Speaking of financial assistance to that country, funds are required to stabilize currency and its exchange rate. I believe that since the former Soviet Union, which is in a situation that existed decades ago, will be modernized, a huge sum of money is required for the modernization. Looking at the world, there is no nation fully capable of providing such a financial assistance and I believe that Japan must be prepared to provide a substantial amount of financial assistance.

[Morita] How are you going to deal with the northern territories issue?

[Miyazawa] Japan plans to provide financial assistance out of friendship toward the former Soviet Union. We have reasons to expect the former Soviet Union to understand this friendship. I hope that in dealing with the issue, the former Soviet Union will bear our friendship in mind. There is one thing that I want to point out and that is the problem of inhabitants. We need to work to make them understand somehow that their future will be bright because they are well aware of the living standard in Japan. I think that if we fail to do so, they will be uneasy. We need to work toward that end.

[Obama] Mr. Prime Minister, you chose South Korea as the first nation to visit after taking office. This illustrated how your government attaches great importance to Asia, and the Asian people welcomed your visit to that country. There were various developments during your stay in South Korea. Were you welcomed by the South Koreans?

[Miyazawa] There are various issues between the two countries. The South Koreans welcomed my visit to their country, saying that I came to their country to face issues instead of avoiding them. Japan is an Asian nation and if it fails to maintain friendly ties with that country, it is not qualified to be called an Asian nation. This is what I have asserted for a long time. The South Koreans may understand this feeling of mine. Even if Japan works to be friendly toward South Korea, it has various past grievances against Japan. In a sense, I went to that country to discuss those grievances. The South Korean economy was very good in the past. But it has recently become worse and that country's trade deficit has grown. People inside and outside the government are greatly concerned about the worsening economy. In particular, strikes have taken place very often and wages have risen by double digits every year in the past three years. The South Koreans' living standard has been improving and they travel abroad.

South Korea is on the road of liberalization after opening its society. I told them that this process is something that cannot be bypassed and it would lead to a high level of economic growth. However, they told me that the situation has remained unaddressed over the past five years. Japan has kept posting trade surpluses with South Korea, which exports goods after introducing capital and processing semi-manufactured goods from Japan. This trade structure between the two countries has kept Japan in surplus.

The South Korean side asked me to do something to change this trade structure and I think that their request is justified. The South Korean side asked for more high technology from Japan. Since the government has no technology, such high technology should be provided to that country through private joint-venture business alliances or technology alliances. The South Korean side told me that joint-venture businesses with Japanese enterprises have not gone well. I think there are reasons for a lack of progress in the joint-venture businesses. The South Koreans have difficulties in dealing with their economic situation. Japan should help them deal with this situation.

[Obama] To promote joint-venture businesses smoothly, it is necessary to improve the relationship of trust between the people of the two countries.

[Miyazawa] I agree with your suggestion. The two countries should work toward that end. More South Korean technicians should be invited to Japan for training. So far, about 1,000 South Korean technicians have participated in training programs in Japan. Japan plans to invite about 100 South Korean youths every year to Japan. It will continue its efforts to invite such South Koreans to Japan.

[Morita] Looking at the sitution on the Korean peninsula, there was certain progress last year in North Korea's acceptance of nuclear inspections. There is speculation that inter-Korea summit talks will be held this spring.

[Miyazawa] Outwardly, there has been great progress in relations between the two Koreas. The South Korean side is still doubtful whether the North Korean side will abide by what it has promised to the end, despite unexpected progress. The South Korean side told me that this progress was a great event. As Miss Morita just said, I think that if the two Koreas go so far as to hold the summit talks, North Korea will certainly abide by what it has promised. If North Korea fulfills with sincerity what it has promised, this will bring great changes in the situation on the Korean peninsula.

The United States intends to confirm whether North Korea will keep to what it has promised. A high-ranking official of North Korea, the DPRK, is set to visit the United States within two or three days for talks with a U.S. undersecretary of state in New York.

[Obama] Mr. Prime Minister, you and President No Tae-u agreed that Japan and South Korea would cooperate with each other in securing the peace and prosperity of the Asian and Pacific region, and I think that this agreement is a very wonderful thing. When the two countries talk about ways to build peace and prosperity in the Asian and Pacific region, however, the South Korean side will raise such issues as that of the comfort girls. While the two countries need to move toward the future, they are deadlocked over their past. This is a very difficult problem.

[Miyazawa] I agree. Recently, the ROK has gradually become an aid donor from its previous position as an aid recipient. In November last year, it organized the APEC [Asia and Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministerial Conference], a major meeting of the foreign ministers of the Asian countries and the United States. There is a growing consciousness of its place in Asia and the world. We proposed to do that together, so in this respect, there should be no problem. However, in this process we were told that we need a correct understanding of history. I agreed, and said I am aware of this. I told them we intend to repent our mistakes. Thus, we agreed that both sides should acknowledge their past without hiding anything, and march on to a common goal. From the people's viewpoint, there should be no disagreement about this, since this will be beneficial for Asia and the world in the future. However, inevitably the ROK side would say, wait, before that, we have this problem with Japan. The same thing is expected in the future.

[Obama] Looking at the countries of the world, the economic conditions of the United States and the EC are not good. Consequently, there will be a growing expectation for Japan to play the role of the leading force in the world economy. To play that role, Japan must attain a certain economic growth. For this purpose, the budget for next year needs to be approved.

[Miyazawa] You are quite right. Heretofore we have thought of Japanese economic management as mainly Japan's problem. Of course, we knew that such things as ODA [Official Development Assistance] are important. But under the present circumstances, ODA will be more important. As I said earlier, what would happen to the states of the former USSR? There are also issues of the universe and the earth, and environmental problems. Japan is one of the few nations of the world with the economic capability. We have come to a point where it will not do to think only of our country's affairs in economic management. In South America, there is the problem of the debt-ridden states. I think the problem now is to manage the economy in such a way that growth can be attained as much as possible while also producing the resources and funds for the above issues.

[Obama] I think the coming Diet session will be a difficult one and it will not be easy to pass the budget.

[Miyazawa] I know it will be very difficult, but we need to pass the budget by all means....

[Morita, interrupting] How will you actually deal with it?

[Miyazawa] As both you and I know, certain incidents have been reported in the mass media. The judicial authorities are in the process of investigating the facts. However, I apologize deeply to the people for the fact that such things came to pass. As we have been discussing earlier, at present there are numerous issues that we have to tackle for the future. Internationally, we also have to fulfill important responsibilities. At a time like this, if we do not seriously work on such issues as political ethics and political reform to ensure that there should be no retrogression in politics, when things like this happen, political retrogression occurs—for instance, as you have just mentioned the budget, the passage of the budget is delayed. At this juncture, I think we must implement reforms by all means.

[Obama] In the Kyowa incident, an incumbent LDP Diet member has been arrested. It is indeed unfortunate. There is a growing clamor in the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]—not to mention the opposition parties—for this Diet member to assume the responsibility and resign as a Dietman. Mr. Prime Minister, you are also the LDP president. What do you think of this?

[Miyazawa] A Diet member is elected by the voters through an election. First and foremost will be the thinking of the Dietman who has been vested with the voters' trust. In particular, at this stage when investigation is still going on, and we are not acquainted with the whole truth, I think the conclusion has not come out. Right now, I think this is not something we should interfere in. If the time comes for the accused to think of his relation with the voters, his own thinking [pauses] may become a key factor. At this stage, it is not yet such a time. It is also not certain whether we will come to such a stage or not.

[Morita] The fact that this Kyowa incident occurred at a time when everyone was repenting on the Recruit scandal, and everyone was saying that we must correct our behavior, amazed and startled us. What do you think of this?

[Miyazawa] Well, the whole truth has not yet been uncovered. But I think this means that each individual politician has not done enough introspection and there are still institutional improvements to be done.

[Obama] Learning a lesson from the Recruit affair, three political reform-related bills were presented to the

Diet—although they were eventually scrapped. A majority of the people think that if something really effective is not done, there will be no genuine solution to the problem of politics and money. Mr. Prime Minister, I think today you have somehow changed your tone.

[Miyazawa] Well, yes. We have a political reform headquarters in the party, and Mr. Hasegawa is the chairman. I summoned him today and told him, looking at recent developments, it seems that we have to deal vigorously with the issue of political funds and other political reform issues. I asked the political reform headquarters to come up with concrete measures as soon as possible. After a draft proposal is prepared, this will be submitted to the consultative body of the various parties for discussion, and if a conclusion is reached, legislation will be prepared. Under the present circumstances, we cannot afford to dillydally.

[Obama] I heard that in today's discussions between the government and the LDP, it was agreed that reform of the election system, reform on political funding and public subsidy to political parties be taken as a whole in political reform.

[Miyazawa] Yes, that is right. Actually, although there were three separate bills submitted to the Diet which were scrapped, they were all interrelated. For instance, under what kind of election system should subsidies to parties be considered? All these are connected. From the very beginning, it was impossible for the issue of political funds to take its own course and be approved. The issue of political funds should indeed be considered in relation to the others. It seems that what I said in South Korea has been taken to mean I would tackle political funds alone. That is not true. Needless to say, all these issues are indeed interrelated.

[Obama] While it is indeed an urgent issue, I do not think the reform of the election system should be implemented in haste. On the other hand, there are eight electoral districts with a disparity of more than three times, which violate Supreme Court rulings on the issue. The issue of the redistribution of Diet seats remains, and what would you do with the relationship between politics and money?

[Miyazawa] Since the end of 1991 there has been a vague—it is not clear-cut—consensus in the consultative body composed of the various parties that the redistribution of Diet seats should be undertaken quickly. More efforts should be exerted in this respect. In this connection, other problems will also have to be tackled by the body.

[Obama] At this point, do you think this will constrain the prime minister's power to dissolve the Diet?

[Miyazawa] Well, I do not think so.

[Morita] The upcoming Diet session will have many tasks. One of them is how to deal with the rice issue. Foreign Minister Watanabe has said the government is moving toward accepting the tariffication without exception offered by GATT Director General Dunkel. Commenting on the remarks by the foreign minister, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato explained today that Foreign Minister Watanabe's remarks in the direction of accepting the tariffication was in line with the government thinking. How do you plan to deal with the rice issue?

[Miyazawa] Maybe I should answer this way: Either way, the Uruguay Round should be brought to a successful conclusion. There is no way Japan can get by without making any contributions; I am aware of that. But it is also true that there is the domestic situation. I think that we should first think about how nonfarmers can come up with a plan with which the farmers will not be uneasy. There are various words such as access and tariffication, but how can we assure the farmers not to worry while bringing the Uruguay Round to a success? There can be various ways. When Mr. Watanabe said there can be many ways, I think he meant that we have to think about various possibilities. I think he is right. Mr. Watanabe talked about tariffication as one of the possibilities, and there are views against it. All of us have to think of what Japan should do to settle the Uruguay Round in a way that the settlement does not cause any concern among the rice growers. I think that this is an issue we face at present.

[Obama] Since the issue of opening Japan's rice market is under negotiations, I do not expect clear-cut answers from you. I, however, believe the prospects for Japanese agriculture are not so bright even if the issue does not exist. Aged people in rural areas are growing in their number and two years ago only 1,800 youths, who exclusively were born in farmhouses and graduated from schools in the rural areas, decided to remain where they were born. The prospects for Japanese agriculture are not so bright even if the Japanese rice market remains closed.

[Miyazawa] I do not think so. To be sure, the number of farmhouses and the acreage of farmland have been reduced. Despite these circumstances, there are ways of developing Japanese agriculture into a sound industry. Speaking of the farm economy, farmers' income has grown. I am not pessimistic about the future of Japanese agriculture. Some farmers will continue their farming in the rural areas with a bright prospect in mind.

[Obama] Mr. Prime Minister, what I would like to say is that the government should focus its administrative measures on farmers who are resolved to remain in the rural areas and engage enthusiastically in farming in the future. The government has thus far spent money recklessly in the rural areas and I think these administrative measures will be of little consequence.

[Miyazawa] I agree with what you have just said. I think the government must think of what it should do to remove the concerns of farmers who are resolved to engage in farming with a firm conviction.

[Morita] This question concerns the PKO bill. Last month, President No Tae-u expressed his concern over the participation of the Self-Defense Force [SDF] members in the peacekeeping operation. What do you think?

[Miyazawa] At the news conference and other occasions, I found the South Koreans to be concerned about the bill. At the news conference, I was questioned about whether or not SDF members will be engaged in fighting. In reply, I said: They will not be engaged in any fighting. They will be sent abroad to help war-ravaged nations restore peace and administration, and to help refugees return home. They will not be engaged in combat. They will be sent abroad at the request of the United Nations or other nations concerned.

For example, I have heard that Prince Sihanouk has asked Japanese to come to Cambodia to help remove mines and to help refugees return home. If Japan is asked to do such work, the work can not be done by amateurs, but by highly trained people. I explained this point at the news conference. South Korea was just recently admitted into the United Nations and the South Koreans do not have full knowledge of the UN peacekeeping operations. They appeared to think the SDF members will be sent overseas to participate in fighting. If it is explained to them that peacekeeping operations are something which are presently being undertaken in Cambodia and other nations, they will understand that.

[Morita] This is our last question. Mr. Prime Minister, you have long asserted that you would seek to build Japan into a life-style superpower where people really feel affluent. In an interview held shortly after you took office, you said this is not a simple promise and you will implement in a concrete manner what you have asserted.

[Miyazawa] I intend to state specifically my views on this question. I intend to improve the social infrastructure, including housing. I also intend to shorten working hours and commuting time to enable workers and other people to have more leisure time. I plan to create an environment in which the aged and the handicapped can enjoy their lives. It is quite natural for women to work in society and I will improve the environment to be one in which they make the most use of their experiences and in which more women can work in society. I also aim to decentralize the overconcentration in Tokyo.

[Obama] Thank you very much.

[Morita] Thank you very much.

Miyazawa's Auto Remarks Cause Negative Reaction

OW2101062892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, in an NHK program entitled: The World in Upheaval and the Course of Japan, aired yesterday, said the government announcement made at the Japanese-U.S. summit talks about increasing imports of U.S. cars and car parts was not a promise but a target. After his remarks were broadcast by a U.S. TV station, antagonistic reactions arose in the United States. U.S. Commerce Under Secretary Michael Farren warned of a possibility that negative reactions would crop up in the United States.

[Begin Miyazawa recording] The number of guaranteed U.S. auto parts purchases from now until 1994 or U.S. cars purchases—these are a type of forecast. Strictly speaking, since we live in a market economy, they are targets of each car maker rather than firm promises. [end recording]

NBC TV station broadcast the prime minister's remarks as the top story of its news program on the evening of 20 January. The station predicted the prime minister's remarks would further provoke hawkish attitudes against Japan, especially among members of Congress. Under Secretary Farren indicated on 20 January that the prime minister's remarks might be a sign of Japanese retreat from its voluntarily set targets, and warned that extremely negative reactions would arise in the United States unless Japan makes efforts to fulfill its targets promptly.

Furthermore, Democratic Senator Donald Riegle, who is preparing strong legislation against Japan, in an interview with a U.S. TV station strongly criticized Miyazawa's remarks, saying the remarks amount to abandoning a major commitment.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato, referring to this issue in a news conference, said the Japanese Government will fulfill its promises faithfully. Although he recognized there are various opinions in the United States, the Japanese Government is not in the position to make comments on them, Kato said.

[Begin Kato recording] As far as Japan is concerned, the government has a firm determination to faithfully fulfill what was discussed and promised during U.S. President George Bush's visit here. [end recording]

As such, Kato explained that when Prime Minister Miyazawa talked of targets to work for, he meant the government cannot interfere with and practice strict control over the private sectors' transactions.

Spokesman Clarifies Remarks

OW2101120492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1145 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan's top government spokesman moved quickly Tuesday to quell U.S. concerns that Japan may renege on a pledge to increase auto imports, saying that Japanese industry will fully honor an agreement arrived at during U.S. President George Bush's visit here earlier this month.

"We will not back off on our pledge midway. It is alright to regard statements on sales by Japanese manufactures as promises," Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference.

He made the remark one day after Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said in a televised interview that import figures for U.S. automobile and auto parts were a "target rather than a firm promise."

Michael Farren, undersecretary of commerce for international trade, reportedly responded with a sharp warning that Japan would face a "very negative reaction" should it fail to "expeditiously move to meet and exceed the goals" set while Bush was in Japan.

During Bush's visit, Japanese companies agreed to set "voluntary" targets of boosting purchases of U.S. auto parts to 19 billion dollars worth in 1994, up from about 9 billion dollars in 1990.

They also agreed to import more U.S. cars, though no numerical target was set.

Kato explained that Miyazawa may have made the comment because, under the principles of free trade, the government cannot make pledges on levels of imports.

"The decision to purchase cars is made by the consumer, so there can be no strict promise," Kato told the news conference.

He said Miyazawa's comment was "restrained in accord with Japanese-style of speech. It may be interpreted as a clear expression to other countries that Japan will perform" as promised.

Miyazawa, speaking separately to reporters, expressed surprise at the U.S. reaction to his comment.

"I wonder what all the fuss is about? In the end we promised to do our best," to expand imports, he said.

"I guess I did not express myself very well," in the interview, Miyazawa said, adding, "isn't it enough to perform conscientiously?"

Earlier in the day, Miyazawa urged a gathering of some 700 executives of major Japanese firms to make their best effort to make good on their pledges.

"The government cannot fulfill the agreements reached at the summit on its own. I want the business community to make its best effort," he told a biannual meeting of the Japan Federation of Employers' Association.

Suggesting that Japan made its maximum concession, Miyazawa said that Bush had "brought home everything he could."

"He understood we are sincere," Miyazawa said.

Critics in Japan have charged that the pledges, ostensibly made voluntarily by the private sector, were in essence an agreement to engage in managed trade in order to reduce Japan's multibillion dollar trade surplus with the United States.

Miyazawa also expressed regrets that trade issues had overshadowed the most important element of the visit—the global partnership between the world's two largest free economies.

Together Japan and the U.S. account for 40 percent of the world's combined gross national products.

Top MITI Official Backs Remarks

OW2101111892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—A senior International Trade and Industry Ministry [MITI] official Tuesday echoed Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's remark that a recent Japanese announcement on its auto-related purchases should be viewed as a target, and not as a pledge as some Americans think.

However, he said, that does not mean that Japan will spare any efforts to cut the huge bilateral auto trade imbalance.

In a televised interview Monday, Miyazawa described as "a target rather than a firm promise" Japan's announcement during U.S. President George Bush's recent tour that it will buy substantially more U.S.-made cars and car parts.

The January 9 announcement is a "kind of forecast of how many U.S. automobiles and parts Japan would definitely be able to purchase," he said in the interview with Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK).

Miyazawa's remarks drew an immediate backlash from U.S. Government officials and businessmen, who said Japan is backpedalling on its "pledge."

The MITI official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said the forthcoming meeting of trade ministers from four major economies will focus on global trade talks and assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"It depends on how things have developed by then, but the Uruguay Round (of global trade talks) will definitely be an important agenda item during the talks," he said.

MITI announced earlier in the day that the next "quadrilateral" talks, to be under Japanese sponsorship, will be held from April 24-26 in Fukushima Prefecture, north of Tokyo, the birthplace of MITI chief Kozo Watanabe.

The informal talks have been held on a biannual basis among Japan, the United States, Canada, and the European Community (EC) since they were launched in 1982 under a U.S. initiative.

Further Opening of Auto Market 'Demanded'

OW1801074392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Peter Woods, president of Rover Japan Ltd., has demanded that Japan further open its car market by removing a stack of nontariff barriers.

Woods, who serves as head of the automobile group of the European business community in Japan, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that these barriers have impeded access to the Japanese market by foreign automakers.

He also complained about the Japanese Government's failure to keep its pledge to halve the consumption tax on the acquisition of automobiles, saying the step will curb imported car sales in Japan and prevent reduction of Japan's swollen trade surplus.

The government, facing an anticipated tax revenue shortfall, decided to cut the automobile consumption tax from the present 6 percent to 4.5 percent from April, reneging its promise to cut it to 3 percent.

Woods demanded that the Japanese Government drop its decision and live up to its promise.

He said European automakers want the Japanese Government to set a goal to raise the market share of imported cars from the present few percent to 10 percent in 1995 and to 17.5 percent in 2000.

The request by European automakers reflects their desire for Japan to make continuous efforts to open its car market, he said.

Woods demanded that the Japanese Government apply tax incentives now offered only to Japanese automakers to foreign automobile manufacturers.

He charged that the Japanese Government is not considering measures to correct the trade imbalance with sincerity.

While admitting that the Japanese car market now is basically open, woods said there still exists a stack of nontariff barriers impeding the entry of foreign automakers into the Japanese market.

Commenting on arrangements for automobile trade made by U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Japan earlier this month, Woods said European automakers do not favor bilateral governmental agreements on automobile trade because it is a matter to be decided by consumers on whether to buy a car.

What the European business community is seeking is for Japan and the European Community (EC) to have a frank exchange of views on the further opening of their respective markets.

Under an agreement reached with Japan last summer, the EC will totally liberalize its automobile market by 2000, Woods said.

BOJ Official on Yen's Surge Against Dollar

OW2001044092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0413 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—A senior Bank of Japan (BOJ) official hinted Monday that the central bank welcomes the yen's surge against the U.S. dollar.

The official made no direct comment on the yen's appreciation but noted that the question of Japan's huge trade surplus with the United States—whose reduction would necessitate an appreciation in the yen's value—has yet to be settled.

He also indicated that the BOJ would like to see the dollar pegged at around the 123 yen level, which prevailed on the foreign exchange market just before the Japan-U.S. summit in Tokyo early this month.

The official noted that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush during their talks supported the recent appreciation of the yen.

The dollar opened in Tokyo on Monday at 123.10 yen, down 4.85 yen from Friday's close. On Friday in New York, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York sold the dollar, sending the currency down more than 4 yen from the previous day.

Motohide Hongo, chief analyst at the Japan Research Institute, a private think tank, said the dollar's value is unlikely to fall rapidly below 120 yen.

He said the Federal Reserve Bank's massive dollar selling caused panic on the foreign exchange market that led to the yen's temporary surge.

A Finance Ministry official, meanwhile, said the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations are expected to agree on pegging the exchange rate at 120-125 yen to the dollar at a meeting of their finance ministers and central bank chiefs on Long Island, New York, on Saturday.

The official noted that the Japan-U.S. summit endorsed the then prevailing exchange rate of 123 yen to the dollar to help correct the bilateral trade imbalance, and that France and other European countries expressed support of that level of exchange value.

The yen rebounded Monday morning after falling temporarily due to speculative currency trading following the Bush-Miyazawa meeting, he said.

Analysts said the higher value of the yen would promote global economic growth by helping expand U.S. exports and Japanese domestic demand.

In a related development, prices of precious metals on the Tokyo commodity exchange for industry fell sharply following a rise in the yen's value and a sharp drop in precious metals quotations abroad.

Gold futures opened 60 yen lower for all deliveries, while silver and platinum futures fell across the board.

Gold for December delivery ended the morning session at 1,466 yen per gram, down 57 yen from Friday's close.

Hata Says Yen's Further Rise 'Acceptable'

OW2101045592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Tuesday the yen's further appreciation is acceptable as long as it takes place gradually.

Hata told a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting that the current climb of the yen against the dollar will be beneficial by boosting Japan's domestic demand, since a stronger yen will depress the prices of imported crude oil and other resources.

"The present trend in the currency market is desirable considering Japan's economic fundamentals," he said.

The dollar dropped below 123 yen in Tokyo interbank trading Monday, losing almost 5 yen from the weekend level.

Hata's remarks came amid growing expectations that the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries will endorse the yen's strength at the expected meeting of their finance ministers and central bankers in New York on Saturday.

French Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy said Monday in Tokyo he welcomes the yen's appreciation against both the U.S. dollar and European currencies.

But Hata, at the Tuesday press conference, refused to say how far the yen should be allowed to rise.

Asked about the faltering stock market, Hata said the market is too pessimistic in light of Japan's economic fundamentals.

The benchmark Nikkei index fell below 21,000 Monday, hitting its lowest level since October 1, 1990.

"The Japanese economy is still on a firm footing and the (economic) environment is not one that should depress stock prices," he said.

The Finance Ministry has compiled a draft budget for fiscal 1992 designed to provide a boost to the economy and interest rates have further declined in the wake of the cut in the official discount rate December 30, he pointed out.

"These factors will eventually have a positive effect on the stock market," he said.

Hata, however, did not suggest the ministry will take any concrete steps any time soon to prop up sagging stock prices, saying only, "we will keep a close eye on the market."

Watanabe Comments on War Reparations to DPRK

OW1901111592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Nagano, Jan. 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Sunday that Japan will take positive steps on war reparations to North Korea if Pyongyang makes good its vow to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Tokyo will also provide North Korea economic aid if it accepts the inspections under the guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the IAEA approves, Watanabe said.

Two issues that continue to divide Tokyo and Pyongyang in their fifth round of diplomatic normalization talks are Japan's demand that North Korea accept nuclear inspections and North Korean demands for compensation for Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean peninsula.

Japan maintains it settled the compensation issue with South Korea when it paid 300 million dollars at the time Tokyo and Seoul established normal relations in 1965.

North Korea demands Tokyo pay an unspecified amount for suffering and losses Japan inflicted on the Korean people as "aggressors" during its colonial rule.

This month, Pyongyang said it would sign a nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA in late January, as required by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which North Korea signed in 1985. Washington, Seoul, and other governments say they fear North Korea will soon develop a nuclear weapon—a charge Pyongyang denies.

Noting such fears in a speech to supporters in Nagano, Watanabe said Tokyo would provide aid if Pyongyang sets Japan's mind at ease by stopping the alleged development.

Also in his speech, Watanabe hinted that Fumio Abe, the former state minister arrested January 13 for allegedly taking bribes, should resign from the Diet on his own accord.

The former director general of the Hokkaido Development Agency should act according to the dictates of his conscience, Watanabe said.

Abe, 69, was arrested on suspicion of receiving some 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Corp., a now bankrupt steel-frame maker, in exchange for his influence and privileged access to confidential information on public work projects.

Miyazawa: 'Comfort Women' Problem Not Settled

OW2001095992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0853 GMT 20 JAN 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday left open the possibility that Japan might pay compensation to Korean women forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II, political sources said.

At a meeting of top officials of the government and his ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], Miyazawa said South Korea has never asked clearly for compensation for the so-called "comfort women" since Seoul renounced claims for war reparations under the 1965 treaty normalizing relations with Tokyo, LDP sources said.

But Miyazawa reportedly said he could not call the problem settled.

Earlier in the day, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato dismissed a South Korean suggestion that former "comfort women" may be eligible for compensation because they were not included in discussions that led to the 1965 agreement.

Miyazawa, who reported the outcome of his three-day visit to South Korea last week, cited the "comfort women" issue and the bilateral trade imbalance in Japan's favor as pending problems between the two nations.

The prime minister said the forced prostitution is "unbearable from South Korea's point of view," the sources said.

At a morning press conference, Kato said Japan does not plan to investigate reports that Chinese women were also forced to serve in World War II military brothels.

Asked if Japan intends to probe reports of Chinese "comfort women" and, if verified, apologize to Beijing, Kato said, "The investigation is of Korea. We are not considering other countries."

Miyazawa, during the official visit to South Korea that ended Saturday, apologized for the dispatch of "comfort women" and said the government would thoroughly investigate their circumstances.

Regarding compensation for the Korean women, Kato reiterated that victims are free to seek reparations in court, but said the government regards the issue closed by the 1965 treaty.

Hours after Miyazawa departed Seoul, South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said that, "unlike forced draftees," comfort women were not included in the discussions leading to the 1965 pact.

He said Seoul would launch an investigation, and then "explore all possibilities" regarding compensation.

Japan agreed in 1965 to provide South Korea with 500 million dollars in economic assistance.

Ways To Respond to 'Comfort Women' Contemplated

OW2101103192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1013 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Government Spokesman Koichi Kato said Tuesday that the government would consider "some sort of measures" to express its remorse to the tens of thousands of Korean women who were forced to work in World War II military brothels.

However, the chief cabinet secretary declined to say whether financial compensation would be considered.

Kato's comment came after news reports that South Korea has decided to formally demand compensation for the women.

"Though it may be difficult according to legal argument, we would like to consider some sort of measures to express our feelings of remorse," Kato told a regularly scheduled news conference.

He reiterated the government's position that a 1965 treaty normalizing relations with South Korea relieved Japan of any obligation to compensate individual Koreans for abuses during Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula.

Under the treaty Japan provided 500 million dollars worth of aid and low-interest loans to the Seoul Government.

The Korean news agency YONHAP reported that Korean officials say they are justified in seeking compensation for the women because "circumstances" have changed since 1965.

Tokyo maintains that demands for individual compensation should be settled by the courts.

Dozens of Koreans who were conscripted for forced labor during World War II have filed suit pressing for reparations, and last month three Korean women became the first former "comfort women" to seek redress for alleged abuses.

Kato said that the government regards the issue of the so-called comfort women as a separate matter from the forced laborers because of the "special emotional injury" they endured.

He depicted the plight of Chinese women who were also allegedly forced to have sex with Japanese Imperial Army soldiers as a "future issue."

An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 women, some 80 percent of them Korean, were forced to serve in frontline military brothels.

Eyewitnesses have said that Chinese and Japanese women were also enslaved in the brothels, though there are no known estimates of how many were involved.

Watanabe To Invite Russia's Yeltsin, Kozyrev

OW1801125692 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, in a news conference held in Utsunomiya City today, said he will ask Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to visit Japan as soon as possible to accelerate bilateral talks on the northern territories issue, which has been stagnating since the Soviet dissolution. Mr. Watanabe will convey the invitation to the Russian leaders during his Moscow visit beginning 25 January.

In today's news conference, Mr. Watanabe referred to his Moscow visit, beginning 25 January, to participate in multinational talks on Middle East peace, saying he is planning a series of meetings with Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Kozyrev, and leaders of the Russian parliament during the Moscow visit. He noted that, taking into account Mr. Yeltsin's recent remarks calling for a settlement of the territorial issue on the basis of law and justice, he would like to invite President Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Kozyrev to Japan to accelerate territorial talks.

Mr. Watanabe thus revealed his plan to ask for an early visit to Japan by President Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Kozyrev to resume the territorial talks, which are stagnating because of the turmoil in Russia following the dissolution of the former Soviet Union.

India Urged To Sign Nonproliferation Treaty

OW2001083092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 20 JAN 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 20 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Monday called on India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, officials said.

But Indian External Affairs Minister Madhavsinh Solanki told Watanabe in a 90-minute meeting that India's geopolitical situation complicates its accession to the treaty.

Solanki, who arrived in Japan on Sunday for a six-day official visit, also said the treaty greatly discriminates against countries that did not claim to have nuclear weapons when the treaty was drawn up, assigning them greater duties than those with such weapons.

Officials said Solanki's reply appeared to indicate India is unwilling to join the treaty in light of its rivalry with neighboring Pakistan and, to a lesser extent, China.

India claims it has no nuclear warheads but exploded what it called a "peaceful nuclear device" in 1974. Pakistan, which says it will sign the treaty if India does, is widely believed close to being able to produce nuclear arms.

China, which acknowledges possession of nuclear weapons, has indicated its readiness to sign the international treaty.

Watanabe told Solanki of Japan's new policy of linking aid to how recipient countries deal with such issues as nuclear nonproliferation and arms exports.

He added that Japan intends to carry out the policy and that it is supported by Japanese public opinion.

Officials said Watanabe and Solanki agreed that the functions of the United Nations should be strengthened.

Solanki was quoted as saying the configuration of the 15-seat U.N. Security Council, on which five states are guaranteed permanent seats by the U.N. Charter, should be changed to make the body more democratic and transparent.

The five permanent members—the United States, Russia, China, Britain, and France—were the major victorious powers of World War II. Other states can hold only rotating seats on the council.

Solanki's remarks on the council come just before a historic summit meeting of the 15 countries now on the council, scheduled for January 31 at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is to attend the meeting, as Japan assumed a two-year seat on the council this month. Japan, also wanting the council refigured, is seeking a permanent seat.

Officials said Solanki expressed India's gratitude for Japan's pledge in September of prompt assistance to help New Delhi meet an unprecedented balance of payments crisis.

Japan pledged the largest amount among participating donor nations at a Paris meeting of international aid donors—some 106.6 billion yen in concessional loans.

Solanki thanked Japan for last year's bilateral aid aimed at economic development and urged that it be increased [in] the future. He also called for more Japanese investment in India, the officials said.

Officials said Solanki called for a Japanese decision to support the Naruda dam project, which would irrigate vast tracts of drought-prone land, but would reportedly flood nearly 600 villages and requiring some 1 million people to move.

He was quoted as saying that while some environmentalists oppose the dam, India is approaching the project with care.

Watanabe said Japan is taking a cautious stance toward the project, taking into account various opinions in other countries and within Japan about the rights of dam site residents and environmental concerns.

Environmentalists say that besides displacing many residents, the dam project would destroy 350,000 hectares of forests and 250,000 hectares of farmland, while inundating ancient archaeological and fossil sites.

Solanki Says India Rules Out Signing NPT

BK2001125892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] India has ruled out signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] under the present situation. This was conveyed by the visiting external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, during talks with his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Michio Watanabe. Mr. Solanki said the current NPT discriminates against countries without nuclear weapons by placing heavier requirements on them than on those that actually possess them. He maintained that India does not have nuclear weapons and the 1974 Pokharan explosion was a peaceful nuclear device.

Defends India's Stand on Pact

OW2101071892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0639 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Indian Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki, defending his government's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday that his country has nothing to hide, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Solanki told Miyazawa that Japanese news reports incorrectly suggested that India is refusing to sign the pact because it has something to hide, the official said.

On Monday, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe told Solanki that Japan intends to carry out its new policy of linking aid with recipient nations' policies on nuclear nonproliferation and arms control issues.

Solanki explained to Miyazawa that India is opposed to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty on the grounds that it discriminates against nations that do not possess nuclear weapons, the official said.

The treaty requires members that did not have nuclear devices before 1967 to agree not to use nuclear material for weapons.

Solanki also cited India's neighbors Pakistan and China as obstacles to its joining the treaty, the official said.

Pakistan is believed to be close to attaining a nuclear weapons production capability, though Karachi says it will sign the treaty if India does.

India in 1974 exploded what it terms a "peaceful nuclear device," but says it has no nuclear warhead.

China, a nuclear power, has said it will sign an international treaty banning transfer of nuclear weapons technology to nonnuclear states.

In the 35-minute courtesy call, Solanki also pressed Japan to support a massive dam project that is being protested by environmentalists, and to make available development funds that can be quickly dispersed.

Miyazawa said that Japan would cooperate where possible.

Japan is waiting for a world bank report on the environmental impact of the mammoth Sardar Sarovar dam project before making a decision on economic assistance, the official said.

The dam will dislocate up to 1 million people and destroy 350,000 hectares of forests and 250,000 hectares of farmland to create water resources to irrigate the drought-prone region, environmentalists say.

Solanki, here since Sunday on a six-day visit, relayed invitations to Miyazawa and Emperor Akihito to visit India, the official said.

Urges Increased Investments

OW2101104292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Indian External Affairs Minister Madyhavsinh Solanki on Tuesday called on Japanese to step up investment in his populous country.

India has introduced major structural reforms aimed at macroeconomic stabilization and should become "a strong and vibrant economy" as a result, Solanki told reporters at the National Press Club.

Solanki, who arrived in Japan on Sunday for a six-day official visit, said the climate was good for Japanese investment, adding that Japan's experience and technology could help India improve its management capabilities.

He also expressed New Delhi's hope for intensive exchanges with Japanese business representatives and a desire to "provide whatever clarifications are necessary to facilitate their entry into our market."

The Indian official added that he is looking forward to the upcoming visit by a Japanese economic mission under Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Japan has exhibited its deep and abiding commitment to promoting economic growth and development in India," he said, noting that India is "particularly appreciative" of Japan's assistance extended in 1991 "during a difficult balance of payments situation."

He said he hopes this year's 40th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations will provide an opportunity for further dialogue at the leadership level and also for boosting ties in various fields.

India, however, may find it difficult to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty since it does not apply evenly to nations which already possess such arms and those that do not, he said.

"India is against nuclear weapons from the beginning," he said. "We are for the elimination of nuclear weapons and India believes in the peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Earlier in the day, Solanki met Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and defended his government's refusal to sign the treaty, saying India has nothing to hide, a Foreign Ministry official said. Solanki also told Miyazawa that Japanese news reports making such an assumption were incorrect, the official said.

Touching on relations with Pakistan, Solanki said India "is for the strenghthening of the confidence building process" but said it does not see the "right climate" for developing one if Pakistan continues to support terrorism directed against India in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir.

Contract-Based Exports Up 10 Percent in '91

OW2101100592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan's contract-based exports recorded double-digit growth last year while imports posted the first downturn in five years, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) reported Tuesday.

The report underscored the recent upward trend in Japan's trade surplus.

Japanese exports totaled 294,790 million dollars last year, a 10.0 percent surge, while imports dropped 1.9 percent to 201,046 million dollars.

The 10 percent increase in exports compared with the 2.5 percent rise in 1990 and a 4.9 percent advance in 1989, while the 1991 decline in imports marked the first downswing since a 7.2 percent fall recorded in 1986.

Exports to the United States, Japan's largest trading partner, rose a scant 0.8 percent, reflecting the slow U.S. economic recovery.

Shipments to the European Community (EC) and Southeast Asian nations increased 13.1 percent and 18.6 percent, respectively, thanks to strong demand for Japanese products in these markets.

Japanese imports were lower last year from all areas except the rapid-growing economies in Southeast Asia and former communist nations.

Japanese exports were strong in microchips, steel, chemical products, and automobiles, while demand for videocassette recorders (vcrs) and machine tools weakened.

Last year, Japan exported a 0.9 percent more cars and imported 10.3 percent less. In auto trade with the U.S., Japan's exports were up 1.3 percent but imports plunged 25.1 percent.

The unabated auto trade imbalance has become a highlight in the latest Japan-U.S. trade bickering, since it accounts for three quarters of the 40 billion dollar annual trade gap.

Under heavy U.S. pressure, Japan recently promised to buy more U.S.-made cars and car parts to slim the bilateral auto trade gap.

The MITI report is based on an average dollar value of 134.99 yen for exports, down 7.9 percent from 1990, and of 135.03 yen for imports, a 6.6 percent drop.

The ministry also said contract-based exports in December rose 3.1 percent from a year earlier to 26,192 million dollars, while imports were up 2.6 percent to 17,436 million dollars.

The December increase in exports marked the third consecutive single-digit rise, following a 6.2 percent year-on-year growth recorded in November and a 4.9 percent rise in October.

The 2.6 percent rise in imports compared with a 6.4 percent fall in November and a 21.5 percent surge in October, according to the report.

MITI Announces Quadrilateral Trade Talks Set

OW2101095392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0919 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Ministers from countries controlling nearly two-thirds of the world's commerce will meet in Japan in late April for their regular biannual trade talks, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Tuesday.

The ministry has sent an official invitation to the United States, Canada, and the European Community (EC) for the informal trade talks scheduled to be held north of Tokyo in Fukushima Prefecture, on April 24-26.

MITI Chief Kozo Watanabe will host the 21st round of the so-called "quadrilateral meeting." U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, Canadian Trade Minister Michael Wilson and European Trade Commissioner Frans Andriessen are expected to attend.

In the previous meeting held last September in Angers, France, ministers from the four economies reaffirmed their commitment to bringing the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks to a successful conclusion.

For 1991 as a whole, sizable increases in exports of cars, computers, computer chips, optoelectronics products, and audio equipment made major contributions to the expansion of overall exports.

By contrast, imports of crude oil fell by 4.4 percent, and fuel oil by 21.1 percent.

Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. picked up 1.3 percent in 1991 for the first year-on-year rise since 1987, while the surplus with the EC surged 48.1 percent.

The surplus with Asian countries also snowballed, increasing 43.2 percent.

Japan's trade surplus had been on a steady decline since 1986, when it hit a historic high, eventually sinking as low as 52,149 million dollars in 1990.

The government has been explaining that the sudden upturn in the surplus in 1991 is due only to "special" or "temporary" factors, such as the falling oil prices, yen upswing, and the decline of luxury imports due to the burst of the "economic bubble."

An MOF [Ministry of Finance] official briefing reporters said, "it is unlikely that Japan's trade surplus will continue to expand sharply."

But Shoji Saito, director and general manager of the research division of Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank, said, "it's just a return to normalcy."

Japan's surplus fell over the past four years simply because several "special" factors converged simultaneously, Saito said.

"Now we have returned to scratch as all these one-shot phenomena have vanished," he said.

Japan's trade partners are apparently hoping to see the current strength of the yen put a cap on Japan's trade surplus, and Japanese officials seem to have no objection to the trend.

U.S. President George Bush and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa proclaimed in their joint statement earlier in the month that they are "not worried" by the yen's climb.

French Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy said in Tokyo on Monday that he is "quite happy" to see the yen firming up against both the dollar and European currencies, and Japan's Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said on Tuesday he views any gradual appreciation of the yen as a "desirable move."

The group of seven (G-7) major industrial countries is expected to endorse the current exchange trend at their meeting this weekend.

Mitsui Taiyo Kobe's Saito said a further rise of the yen will eventually work to depress Japan's trade surplus although the surplus will grow first due to the J-curve effect.

"A stronger yen will start having a surplus-depressing impact after a year or so," he said.

Saito predicted the dollar will weaken to as low as the 120 yen level in the next six months.

However, Atsushi Nakajima, a senior economist at the Industrial Bank of Japan, said any effect of the yen's rise on Japan's surplus will be limited.

"The question is how much the yen should rise against the dollar to contain trade surplus," he said.

"I don't think the yen's upswing will have any dramatic impact on the trade figures unless the dollar falls below 110 yen."

"But that would be unacceptable to both the U.S. Government and Japanese exporters," he said.

"It is unlikely that the G-7 will again try to drag down the dollar to rectify the trade picture as they did in 1985," when the so-called Plaza Accord on a lower dollar was reached in New York.

"The only ways to make the surplus really shrink now are either a very sharp hike in the yen or more political initiatives to boost Japan's imports, neither of which would be very good for Japan," Nakajima said.

Joint Consortium Wins Iranian Plant Order

OW1601224492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1453 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—A Japanese-British consortium has won an order from the Iranian Ministry of Oil to construct a chemical fertilizer plant, Japanese company officials said Thursday.

Under the contract, the consortium, made up of Tomen Corp., Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., and the British Engineering Company, Kellogg, will build the plant at Bojnurd in Khorasan, northeastern Iran.

The contract price is about 358 million dollars, of which 85 percent will be financed by the governmental Export and Import Bank of Japan. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry will accept export insurance for the deal.

The plant is due to go into operation in the fall of 1994. It will have an annual production capacity of 330,000 tons of ammonia and 500,000 tons of urea.

Tokyo Welcomes Salvadoran Peace, Pledges Aid

OW1701082592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 17 JAN 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 17 KYODO - Japan on Friday welcomed the signing of a peace agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the rebels who have been fighting for years to overthrow it.

The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Japan considers the U.N.-mediated peace accord as marking "an important step toward the realization of lasting peace."

The peace agreement was signed Thursday between the Government of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

The Foreign Ministry statement also said Japan intends to extend assistance for economic reconstruction and development to El Salvador "as far as possible."

Officials said Japan has decided to invite officials from the El Salvador Government for talks in Tokyo on expanding its Official Development Assistance (ODA) to that country.

Japan's ODA to El Salvador, consisting of grants and technical assistance, but no government loans, stood at 8.24 million dollars in 1990, more than double the figure for the previous year.

Officials said the Foreign Ministry statement of Japan's stance on assisting El Salvador marks the first step toward implementation of the recently announced Japan-U.S. "global partnership action plan" as it relates to Latin America.

The action plan was announced by the two countries on the occasion of U.S. President George Bush's visit to Japan last week.

Officials said Japan has started preparations for the redispatch of diplomatic personnel to its embassy in El Salvador.

The embassy has only been staffed by local employees since 1980 due to the chronically unstable political situation there.

Watanabe: Rice Imports, Tariffs Inevitable

OW1901114592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Matsumoto, Nagano Pref., Jan. 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe indicated Sunday that Japan must inevitably accept a proposal to replace its ban on rice imports with tariffs.

The total ban on rice imports will not be acceptable to the international community in the current Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks, Watanabe said.

Tokyo's alternatives are to partly liberalize its rice market or accept a plan now on the negotiating table for replacing the ban with "tariffication without exception," the foreign minister told supporters in this central Japan city.

Japan has said it will call on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to exempt rice from the comprehensive tariffication proposal put forward last month by its director general, Arthur Dunkel.

Watanabe said the damage to domestic agriculture under rice import tariffs would depend on the levels set.

For example, if Japan introduced tariffs as high as 600 percent the first year and reduced them to 15 percent over seven years, imported rice would still cost more than domestically produced rice, he said. Thus, he said, Japanese farmers would not suffer even if the government should introduce tariffs.

But Watanabe said the government would have to take some unspecified measures to help farmers if it opens Japan's rice market.

Spokesman Clarifies Remarks

OW2001075592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] At a news conference this morning, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato commented on Foreign Minister Watanabe's remarks to the effect that even if tariffication of farm products were accepted, only a small amount of foreign rice would enter Japan. Mr. Kato said that Mr. Watanabe's remarks are in line with those who have impartially studied Dunkel's draft agreement. He thus gave the view that Mr. Watanabe's remarks were in line with government policy.

At a lecture in Nagano Prefecture yesterday, Foreign Minister Watanabe said that if a a 600-percent tariff rate were applied initially and the rate were reduced 15 percent a year thereafter for seven years, the price of foreign-produced rice would be too expensive for Japan. His view was that even if Dunkel's draft agreement were accepted, there probably would not be much impact on Japanese rice farmers.

Commenting at the news conference on Foreign Minister Watanabe's remarks, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato noted that the government itself does not think Dunkel's draft agreement is the final draft. He added:

[Begin Kato recording] All countries are now impartially studying Dunkel's draft. This is something Japan also has to do, and I think Deputy Prime Minister Watanabe made his remarks along these lines. [end recording]

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato thus gave the view that Watanabe's remarks were along the lines of government policy.

On the other hand, asked about trial calculations done using specific duty rates on farm products such as rice, Mr. Kato only said that government offices concerned are studying the matter, and he avoided speaking specifically about tariff rates on rice.

Tanabu Comments on Statements

OW2101045192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0407 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—Japan's Government officials should refrain from voicing approval of a plan to convert all import restrictions to tariffs, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu said Tuesday.

The government's position of calling for the exemption of rice from the comprehensive tariffication proposal is unchanged, Tanabu said at a press conference following a cabinet meeting.

Those urging the Japanese to accept the tariffication plan "should put themselves in the position of trade negotiators," he said.

On the possibility that Tokyo's stand on the issue would be accepted during future farm negotiations, Tanabu said "we want to strive to have Japan's position understood."

Tanabu's remarks came after Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe indicated Sunday in a speech in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture, that Japan must eventually accept a proposal to replace its ban on rice imports with tariffs.

The total ban on rice imports will not be acceptable to the international community at the Uruguay Round talks, Watanabe said.

Tokyo's alternatives are to partly liberalize its rice market or accept a plan now on the negotiating table for replacing the ban with "tariffication without exception," the foreign minister told supporters.

The tariffication plan is part of a draft accord put forward by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, in a bid to complete the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The talks are aimed at dismantling barriers to global free trade.

Zenchu Threatens To Withhold Support of LDP

OW2101124192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1229 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 21 KYODO—A powerful farm group threatened Tuesday to withhold or withdraw its support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party in the House of Councillors election this summer over the contentious rice issue.

The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (Zenchu) said it will refuse to support LDP candidates if the party formally accepts the opening of the Japanese rice market.

Zenchu officials said they were angered by a series of remarks by government and ruling party leaders suggesting Japan might accept a proposal in the Uruguay Round trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to replace administrative rice import restrictions with tariffs.

The union is opposed to liberalization of the rice market, claiming it contravenes resolutions passed by the Diet calling for self-reliance in rice production.

Zenchu said it will launch a protest campaign against the government and ruling party, calling on them to reject the proposal for tariffication of rice imports.

The group also said it will send cables to cabinet ministers protesting their remarks on the rice issue.

30 Billion Yen Unaccounted for in Kyowa Scandal

OW1701061692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0516 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 17 (KYODO)—An estimated 30 billion yen is unaccounted for in the expenditure of Kyowa Co., the bankrupt steel frame manufacturer at the center of the growing bribery scandal involving a former cabinet minister, company sources said Friday.

A receiver of the firm said the figure for unaccounted expenditure was some 2.2 billion yen, based on a report by former Kyowa Vice President Goro Moriguchi, now on trial on fraud charges.

Moriguchi apparently forged the report in an attempt to minimize the amount of debt repayment to creditors, the sources said. Kyowa went bankrupt in November 1990.

Prosecutors rearrested Moriguchi Monday on suspicion of bribing former Cabinet Minister Fumio Abe, who was also arrested the same day on suspicion of taking bribes.

The company reportedly started providing money to legislators and provincial assembly members three years ago.

At the time of Kyowa's bankruptcy, "temporary payments" to Moriguchi amounted to some 27 billion yen, together with a loan of about 3 billion yen, the sources said.

Abe is a former secretary general of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

He was arrested on suspicion of taking some 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa in exchange for his influence and privileged access to official information on public works projects while head of the Hokkaido Development Agency.

Kajiyama To Head LDP Diet Affairs Committee

OW1701044992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0336 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 17 (KYODO)—Former Cabinet Minister Seiroku Kajiyama agreed Friday to become chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Diet Affairs Committee following the resignation of Hiroyuki Masuoka last week, party officials said.

Masuoka resigned the post amid criticism of the LDP's handling of proceedings in a special Diet panel on a bill to allow Japanese troops to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The bill was railroaded at the lower house special panel amid strong protests from opposition members last November. The lower house then passed the bill, but the House of Councillors voted to carry over the bill to the next Diet session last December.

Since Masuoka stepped down, LDP's Vice President Shin Kanemaru, also president of the LDP's largest faction, founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, had been trying to persuade Kajiyama to take over the post prior to the start of the ordinary Diet session slated for next week.

Kajiyama, a strong member of the Takeshita faction, indicated his agreement to take over the job in a meeting with Kanemaru and Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki at the party headquarters, the officials said.

They quoted Kajiyama, 65, who has twice previously served as chairman of the LDP committee, as saying he felt an obligation to assist Kanemaru.

Under the cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Kajiyama played a major role as chairman of the committee in establishing a coalition among the LDP, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party.

Kajiyama has also served as minister for home affairs, justice, and international trade and industry.

NHK Apology to Private Broadcasters for Video

OW1701104192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 17 KYODO—Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) apologized Friday to Tokyo's five main private television broadcast companies for the mismanagement of its exclusive video feed during an official dinner where U.S. President George Bush became ill.

Hatsuhisa Takashima, director general of the NHK News Department, apologized to the other broadcasters after they demanded Thursday an apology and explanation of the incident.

"The management of the video feed was unskilled," Takashima said, adding, "I want to express my deepest apologies."

During the dinner hosted by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on January 8, an unmanned NHK camera transmitted images of Bush as he became ill, vomited, and fainted while stricken by the stomach flu.

The earliest video footage provided by NHK domestically and internationally showed the ashen President only after he had been helped to the floor by Secret Service agents.

Later in the week, however, American Broadcasting Company (ABC) aired a more complete video of Bush wavering at the dinner table before collapsing.

Over protests from the private broadcasters, NHK maintained it did not know how ABC obtained the footage and denied that it was trying to conceal any of the tape.

On Friday, Takashima asked the other stations' news directors to understand that NHK had been trying its best and called "unnecessary" a private broadcasters' demand for reconsideration of the representative system of coverage used in the incident.

Takashima explained that ABC, Seoul's Korean Broadcasting System (KBS), and Britain's Commercial International Television News (ITN) had apparently recorded the feed from the NHK camera, but added he did not know the details of the footage being aired.

"As for NHK, (we) have no other tape than the tape that was broadcast," Takashima said.

Panel Urges Supervision in Financial Firms

OW1701134092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1244 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 17 KYODO—An experts' subgroup of a Finance Ministry advisory panel Friday prepared a report calling on the financial companies to beef up their own in-house supervision and drive home the principle about their responsibility to clients, ministry officials said.

The report also presses for a change in the ministry's "convoy method," or policy of protecting and nurturing the finance industry under its jurisdiction.

The report was approved at a follow-up meeting of the experts' subgroup of the financial system research committee, an advisory forum to the finance minister, which has been examining ways of preventing a recurrence of the financial scandals that surfaced last summer.

The report said the ministry's excessive administrative guidance has led to the failure by the finance industry to recognize its full responsibilities.

It called on the ministry to review and correct its policy of issuing the so-called administrative guidance in an ambiguous way, warning that such a practice lowers administrative transparency.

The report also chastised financial companies and institutions for having focused too much on their own profits and business expansion amid the "bubble" economy and having neglected their true role of serving depositors and borrowers.

The Finance Ministry plans to submit a legislation bill for revising the financial system to the next Diet session, which begins late this month, in line with the report which is expected to be formally approved by the advisory panel at its general meeting on January 29.

North Korea

U-2 Crash To Have 'No Impact' on Situation

SK1801044192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0427 GMT 18 Jan 92

["Dangerous Moves That Cannot Be Overlooked"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—A "U-2" high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane of the U.S. imperialists crashed into the east coastal waters of South Korea on January 15 while making a flight for espionage against the northern half of Korea. The fuselage was submerged and its pilot died.

Commenting on this, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

The U.S. imperialists' ceaseless aerial espionage against the northern half of Korea is an intolerable challenge to the trend of the situation on the Korean peninsula that is moving toward detente and peaceful reunification and to our desire for peace and reunification.

The spy plane crash gives a proper lesson that no good results wait for those who resort to confrontation and war moves against the times and people's aspirations.

The accident should have no impact on the situation of the Korean peninsula, being a disaster of the United States' own making.

What matters is that the United States does not cease from its aerial espionage and war moves, failing to see the developments on the Korean peninsula which began to move toward peace and reunification. Such being the situation, no one can vouch that the like of the "U-2" crash would not recur.

Should such an accident occur in the days ahead, the United States may push the situation on the Korean peninsula to an unpredictable phase on that pretext since it has not changed its aggressive Korea policy.

We cannot but express deep apprehensions for it.

If the United States want to have a gratifying effect on the situation of the Korean peninsula without any disaster on its part, it must renounce its consistent policy of war, promptly discontinue its aggressive aerial espionage and all war gambles and pull its forces out of South Korea.

President Bush's Election Campaign 'Denounced'

SK2101125092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] According to news reports, U.S. President Bush is now on the run in an effort to raise his popularity.

Bush, making an appearance on 15 January in New Hampshire where the first of the presidential election primaries is held, admitted that the U.S. economy is in a state of free fall ano gave lip service that he would bring the situation under control through his stronger leadership.

He also prattled that he would like to revitalize the economy through a tax rate readjustment aimed at increasing investment.

Such babbling by Bush, who has embarked upon his election campaign, received only denunciation and scoffing from the people. This was because few will take Bush's words seriously because he has not kept his 1988 campaign promises to the voters that he would achieve fiscal stability without raising taxes.

It was also natural for Bush to be denounced as he has said not a word about reducing the vast amount of military expenditures, even though he is now wrecking the economy by frantically trying to increase nuclear arms and by openly disclosing his scheme to fatten the pocketbook of the capitalists through the reduction of capital gains tax.

Bush is referred to as a nuclear maniac, a president fond of traveling abroad, and as a president of deficits responsible for having put the economy on a downward path with his reckless military buildup and for having caused the unemployment rates to soar to a record high. He kicked off the game of playing with a campaign for his reelection, but has failed to draw the voters as reported by foreign news media.

U.S. Air, Naval 15, 16 Jan Exercises Noted

SK1801050792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0404 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce and Navy Commands staged large-scale aerial war exercises against the North on January 15 and 16 in the air above Woeyon islet, Yongdong and Yoju of South Korea, according to military sources.

These war exercises involving over 450 fighter-bombers and assault and observation planes were aimed at increasing the capacity of swiftly spotting and striking at targets and escaping and flying back to the pacific bases in coordination with the U.S. imperialist airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce.

A "U-2" high altitude strategic reconnaissance plane on January 15 and an "E-3A" AWACS next day were let to make shuttle flights in the air above the areas along the Military Demarcation Line to conduct electronic and aerial espionage on strategic depths and inland areas of the northern half of the country.

The aerial espionage conducted by the U.S. imperialists against the northern half of Korea with the mobilization of various types of strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes numbered 110 cases in the first 15 days of the New Year, which is twice those in the corresponding period last year.

Over 1,200 war planes took part in various war exercises in the air above South Korea and aerial espionage against the North on the 15th and 16th.

Delegation Leaves for Talks With U.S. 19 Jan

SK1901085292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0841 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], left here today by air to participate in the high-level talks to be held between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by Secretary Yun Ki-pok and Vice-Director of a department Kwon Min-chun of the WPK Central Committee and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Song Ho-kyong.

Arrives in New York 20 Jan

SK2101105292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, arrived in New York on January 20 to participate in the high-level talks between the DPRK and USA.

The delegation was met at the airport by officials concerned of the U.S. State Department and the chief and members of the DPRK mission to the United Nations.

Koreans residing in the United States greeted the delegation.

The head of the delegation made public an arrival statement.

Spokesman on N-S Denuclearization Accord Signing

SK2101105892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Panmunjom January 21 (KCNA)—The second contact of delegates to the inter-Korean high-level talks was held in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom today to exchange the texts of "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula".

The sides exchanged again the texts of the document which had been exchanged at the first contact held on January 14, after they were finally signed by their premiers.

This made it possible to declare the adoption of "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" that has focused the attention of the entire people in the North and the South and the world peaceloving people. The sides will declare its effectuation at the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks slated for February after going through necessary procedures for it.

At the end of the contact, delegate of the North side Choe U-chin gave a news briefing.

He, first of all, stressed that the adoption of the joint declaration is a brilliant fruition of the anti-nuke peace policy the DPRK Government has maintained consistently.

Recalling that three rounds of contacts took place between delegates of the sides to consult and solve the nuclear question on which the survival of the nation is staked, he said that thanks to our sincere efforts the coordination of views and arrangement of the text of "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" (draft) were completed at the contacts and it was initialed and the texts of the document signed by the premiers of the two sides were exchanged today and thus the adoption of the joint declaration is announced to the world.

The joint declaration to be made public today is a historical document of epochal significance in removing the root cause of the danger of a nuclear war from the Korean peninsula, contributing to peace in our country and security in Asia and the world and creating a favourable precondition for the peaceful reunification of the country, he said. He read out the full text of the joint declaration signed by the premiers of the North and the South.

Delegate Choe U-chin answered questions put by reporters.

'Full Text' of N-S Denuclearization Agreement

SK2101110592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 21 Jan 92

["Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—Following is the full text of "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" finally signed recently by the premiers of the North and the South:

With a view to denuclearizing the Korean peninsula and thus removing the danger of nuclear war, creating conditions and environment favorable for peace and peaceful reunification of our country and contributing to peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world, the North and the South declare as follows:

1. The North and the South shall refrain from the testing, manufacture, production, acceptance, possession, stockpiling, deployment and use of nuclear weapons.

2. The North and the South shall use nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes.

3. The North and the South shall not possess nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities.

4. The North and the South shall make an inspection of objects chosen by the other side and agreed upon between the sides through procedures and methods defined by the North-South joint committee of nuclear control in order to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

5. The North and the South shall form and operate the North-South Joint Committee of Nuclear Control within one month after the publication of this joint declaration in order to implement it.

6. This joint declaration shall take effect from the day of exchange of its texts between the North and the South through procedures necessary for their effectuation.

[Dated] January 20, 1992

[Signed] Yon Hyong-muk
Premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK and head of North side's delegation to the inter-Korean high-level talks.

[Signed] Chong Won-sik
Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and head of the South side's delegation to the inter-Korean high-level talks.

Role of Successor to 'Leader' Discussed

SK2001033992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0200 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Unattributed talk: "Let Us Arm Ourselves Firmly With Our Party's Revolutionary Ideas and Theories—The Inevitability of the Inheritance and Consummation of the Revolutionary Cause of the Working Class Uniquely Explained by Our Party"]

[Text] The question of inheriting the revolutionary cause of the working class is a matter of defending and inheriting to the end the revolutionary cause explored and developed by the leader [suryong] from generation to generation.

This being the case, to correctly explain on what inevitability the revolutionary cause of the working class is being succeeded and consummated emerges as a matter of principle for the final victory of the communist revolution.

Based on his own profound analysis of the essential nature of the revolutionary cause of the working class and the protractedness of the course of carrying out that revolutionary cause, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has explained anew the inevitability of inheriting and consummating this cause, thereby giving unique, scientific answers to the matter of principle for the final victory of the communist revolution.

The inevitability of inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause of the working class lies in the fact that the whole process of inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause is to be realized by a successor to the leader.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: The ideas and cause of the leader who has explored the revolutionary road for the first time are defended and succeeded by a successor boundlessly faithful to the leader.

Where the historical course of exploring and developing the revolutionary cause of the working class is realized by the activities of the leader who has started it, the historical course of succeeding and consummating the revolutionary cause of the working class is realized by the activities of the successor who inherits the leader's cause.

This is because a successor to the leader plays a decisive role in inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause of the working class just as the leader plays a decisive role in the revolutionary struggle of the working class.

The decisive role played by a successor to the leader in the historical age of inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause of the working class is the continuation and inheritance of the decisive role played by the leader in the historical age of exploring and developing this cause.

This being the case, the successor issue in carrying out the revolutionary cause of the working class is at once an issue of inheriting the position and role of the political leader.

It is because the fundamental conditions controlling the course of inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause can be provided and made to function only through the activities of the successor to the leader that the whole course of the revolutionary cause of the working class being succeeded and consummated is an inevitable process achieved by the successor to the leader.

To defend and completely embody from generation to generation the ideas and leadership of the leader who has explored the revolutionary road is a precondition for succeeding and consummating the revolutionary cause of the working class.

The leader's revolutionary ideas sum up the goals and direction, strategy and tactics of the revolutionary struggle, all designed to guide the course of social changes in conformity with the independent demand and interests of the working class and popular masses. The leader's revolutionary ideas are to be realized through the leader's leadership.

The revolutionary cause of the working class advances and is being realized in the course of completely embodying the leader's ideas and leadership in all areas of the revolution and construction.

The course of the revolutionary cause of the working class being carried out is, ultimately, the course of realizing the leader's ideas and leadership.

This being the case, the leader's ideas and leadership should be consistently defended not only in the historical age of the revolutionary cause being explored and developed, but also in the historical age of it being inherited and consummated. They should also be invariably embodied in the course of social changes.

The work of purely defending from generation to generation the leader's ideas and leadership and of embodying them completely in the whole historical course of the revolution and construction in the new stage of the revolutionary development inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause is to be carried out by the successor to the leader.

Just as the inheritance and consummation of the revolutionary cause is inconceivable apart from a struggle to defend and embody the leader's ideas and leadership, it is impossible to think about the activities of a successor to the leader apart from it.

The successor to the leader should first assume the leader's revolutionary ideas as the one and only guiding ideology as well as the lifeline for achieving the final victory of the revolution, resolutely defend and safeguard their purity in the intransigent struggle against all manner of antiparty and opportunist ideological trends, and deepen and develop the leader's revolutionary ideas through his creative ideological and theoretical activities, thereby increasing their pull without interruption.

Also, the successor to the leader effects revolutionary changes and reforms in all areas of social life in conformity with the leader's ideas and intentions by completely embodying the leader's ideas and leadership in all areas of the revolution and construction.

The overall goal of the working class's revolutionary struggle to build and complete a communist society based on the revolutionary idea of the leader, who explored the revolutionary road for the first time, can only be fulfilled by these activities by the successor to the leader who is implementing the leader's leadership in his reform process.

Strengthening and developing the working class's revolutionary party, which the leader founded, into the leader's perfect and immaculate party is a decisive guarantee for inheriting and consummating the working class's revolutionary cause. Strengthening and developing the working class's party into the leader's party is the party's innate demand and the inevitable demand of the struggle to inherit and consummate the working class's revolutionary cause. The working class's revolutionary cause demands that the further the revolution deepens and develops and the wider and more profound the social reforms, the more thoroughly the leader's ideas be implemented in revolution and construction. This calls for continuously strengthening and developing the party, a guiding force, and continuously trying to perfect the working class party's appearance as the leader's party.

Only when the party, the headquarters of the revolution, is strengthened and developed into the leader's party, can the revolutionary cause be unchangingly adhered to and developed into the leader's cause and society be perfected into a communist society based on the leader's ideas. This is an unchanging rule in the development of the revolutionary movement for communism.

The historic cause of strengthening and developing the working class's party into the leader's party in compliance with the demand of the inevitability of inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause is realized by the successor to the leader. The successor to the leader attaches particular significance to consolidating the party ranks in compliance with the demand of the inevitability of inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause and raises all the party members into communist revolutionaries boundlessly loyal to the leader. In this way, he provides a core unit for inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause and maintains the party ranks' organizational and ideological purity generation after generation.

The successor to the leader also boundlessly enhances the party's combat capability and leadership in step with social reforms that take place widely and profoundly at a time when the revolutionary cause is inherited and consummated. In this way, he vigorously inspires revolution and construction.

The working class's revolutionary cause is inherited and consummated generation after generation through the guiding role of the party, which is strengthened and developed by the successor to the leader. The course of inheriting and consummating the working class's revolutionary cause is realized and advanced by a chuche-oriented and organized political force whose consciousness is raised.

The course of inheriting and strengthening the working class's revolutionary cause can be realized when the working class and popular masses, who are practically tasked with the cause, are prepared politically, ideologically, and organizationally so that they can carry out the task of social reforms, which is presented anew in this era.

The historic cause of providing and strengthening a chuche-oriented political force in compliance with the demand of the inevitability of inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause can be realized only by the activities of the successor to the leader. The historic cause of providing and strengthening a chuche-oriented political force in compliance with the demand of the inevitability of inheriting and consummating the revolutionary cause is realized by the man-remodeling activities by the successor to the leader to indoctrinate and remodel the working class and the popular masses into communist revolutionaries and independent and creative forces for the communist revolution. This cause is also realized by the activities of the successor to the leader to strengthen and develop the unity and cohesion between the party and the people into ideological and volitional unity and cohesion based on the notion that the center of unity is guaranteed generation after generation, to establish communist human relations in the entire society, and to rally wider masses, thus turning society into a unitary political force.

The successor to the leader also raises a new generation into a reliable inheritor of the revolutionary cause and boundlessly reinforces and revitalizes the revolutionary ranks, thus guaranteeing the inheritance of the revolution's political forces generation after generation. The revolution's political forces who guarantee the inheritance and consummation of the revolutionary cause are provided and strengthened by these activities of the successor to the leader, and the working class's revolutionary cause is inherited and consummated by these political forces generation after generation.

The course of inheriting and consummating the working class's revolutionary cause is a subjective course that is realized and advanced when the leader's revolutionary ideas are implemented in the working class's reform process by the activities of the successor to the leader and when the revolution's guiding forces and motivating forces are strengthened and developed. Therefore, the working class's cause, which is inherited generation after generation becomes a revolutionary cause of the successor to the leader.

Because the working class's revolutionary cause is inherited and consummated by the successor to the leader, correctly solving the issue of a successor to the leader is basic to inheriting the revolutionary cause and is a fundamental problem that determines the revolution's destiny. The fact that he newly stated the inevitability of inheriting and consummating the working class's revolutionary cause is an outstanding historic achievement that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il brought in developing the chuche-oriented revolutionary theories.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Cambodia, Laos, SRV

SK1801104892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam left here today to visit Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

He was seen off at the airport by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Chae-suk, Vietnamese Ambassador to Korea Nguyen Van Trong and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

Special Russian Envoy Rogachev Continues Visit

Meets Foreign Affairs Vice Minister

SK1801152492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu today met and conversed with Igor Rogachev, special envoy of the Russian president and ambassador in charge of special missions of the Foreign Ministry, who is visiting Korea.

Present there were officials concerned and Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Korea Aleksandr Kapto.

Views were exchanged on the matters of relations between the two countries and reunification of Korea, international problem and other matters of common concern.

Meets Vice President Yi Chong-ok

SK2101051492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0443 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and conversed with Igor Rogachev, a special envoy of the president of the Russian Federation and ambassador in charge of special missions of the Foreign Ministry, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall Monday.

On hand were Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Song Ho-kyong and Russian Ambassador to Korea Alexandr Kapto.

Belarussian Trade Delegation Arrives 20 Jan

SK2101120692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—A government trade delegation of the Republic of Belarus headed by Nikolay Aleksandrovich Makayed, first vice-chairman of the Committee of External Economic Relations, arrived here Monday [20 January].

PRC Economic, Trade Delegation Arrives 20 Jan

SK2001103792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—A government economic and trade delegation of China headed by Wang Wendong, vice-minister of foreign economic relations and trade, arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Kim Chong-u, vice-minister of external economic affairs, and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

Joint-Japan Aviation Talks Slated for 23-24 Jan

SK2101103992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—Talks on direct flights of special planes will be held between the aviation authorities of the DPRK and Japan in Beijing over January 23-24, 1992.

Foreign Ministry Warns of Japan's Nuclear Threat

SK2101134792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Report on an interview with a Foreign Ministry spokesman by a KCNA reporter in Pyongyang on 20 January]

[Text] A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman answered the following questions asked by a KCNA reporter about the international community's deep apprehension over Japan's intention to arm itself with nuclear weapons.

As the Japanese Government authorities' attempt to arm Japan with nuclear weapons has become more unscrupulous, the voices expressing worry about it are increasing all over the world. At a time when world public opinion is strongly opposing Japan's development of nuclear weapons and calling for checking it, the U.S. Congress and nuclear experts are expressing deep apprehension about Japan's plutonium program.

According to reports, U.S. nuclear experts who testified before a public hearing at the the East Asian and Pacific Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate on 14 January noted that Japan, an historiclly hostile nation, continues making efforts to dispose of weapons-grade nuclear materials and that Japan's craving for plutonium is constantly increasing. They stressed that the DPRK had already expressed apprehension about Japan's attempt to arm itself with nuclear weapons at a meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

Japan's attempt at nuclear arming in actuality poses a great danger. According to materials, Japan, which has extracted its first enriched uranium through a molecular laser system, has accelerated laser enrichment development and has now entered the phase of putting it into practical use. Japan is reportedly putting into operation more than 7,000 centrifugal separators, and within several years it is planning to expand an enrichment plant into the largest one in the world. Japan, which has produced plutonium for 20 years, has reportedly signed contracts to reprocess 4,500 tons of burnt fuel with various foreign countries.

Even a Japanese nuclear expert revealed that his country will produce 80 to 90 tons of plutonium by 2010 and will purchase 30 tons of plutonium from Europe over the next nine years. What we cannot overlook is that Japan will take third place in the world in reprocessing capability in 1995 and will possess 14.9 tons of plutonium, enough to manufacture some 2,000 nuclear bombs between 1993 and 2004.

It is no secret that Japan is purchasing large quantities of plutonium from different regions of the world and that each ship that transports this plutonium is carrying enough to manufacture 100-150 atomic bombs. It is no accident that international concern about Japan's nuclear arming is growing in light of the fact that it possesses a high level of nuclear technology, that it is stockpiling a huge amount of plutonium surpassing by far the amount necessary for peaceful use of nuclear energy, and that it is putting spurs to rearmament.

Our delegations that participated in a meeting of the Board of Governors of the IAEA in June and September last year and another delegation that visited the IAEA in July last year to finalize the text of the nuclear safeguards accord called news conferences and clearly warned that Japan was trying to justify nuclear arming under the pretext of our fictitious nuclear development and to turn itself into a military power.

As our Foreign Ministry spokesman already said in a statement on 7 January, we will sign the nuclear safeguards accord in the near future, ratify it through legal procedures at the earliest possible date, and accept an inspection at a time agreed upon with the IAEA.

Japan's attempt at nuclear arming, which is becoming more unscrupulous, has become the most dangerous act for creating a new nuclear threat in Asia. While the North and the South of Korea are heading for denuclearization, Japan has become a paranuclear state by spurring nuclear arming in secrecy.

We consider that at a time when Japan's ambition to become a politiocal power is commensurate with its economic strength, the world should be highly vigilant against Japan's nuclear arming program and should check and frustrate its attempt to arm itself with nuclear weapons in a timely manner.

We also consider it urgent not only for the Asian region but also for all countries to pay attention to this and keep Japan from harboring a sinister attempt.

Defense Against Japan's Nuclear Threat Stressed

SK1901043192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0019 GMT 18 Jan 92

[NODONG SINMUN 18 January commentator's article: "Let Us Defend Japan's Nuclear Threat With the Nation's United Strength"]

[Text] Due to our republic's thorough peace-loving antinuclear and denuclearization policy and active efforts to consistently fulfill it, prospects to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula have been finally opened.

An Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and South was adopted at the North-South high-level talks, and the North and South agreed to the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. Also, the nuclear test war, that is the Team Spirit joint military exercise against us, has for the moment been suspended.

This kind of development contributes greatly to guaranteeing peace and stability in the Asia and Pacific region. This is great progress on the road to peace and denuclearization on the Korean peninsula and Asia, a victory in the peace line over the war line, and a clear manifestation of the justness and vitality of our Republic's antinuclear and denuclearization policy. The world's peace-loving people and broad social circles welcome this.

On various occasions we clearly stated that we do not engage in nuclear development. South Korea announced that it does not have any nuclear weapons. It was indirectly revealed that U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea, which had always threatened our nation, were withdrawn from South Korea.

Therefore, the nuclear threat that was hovering over our nation has, for the moment, been eliminated. This is a very happy event with pivotal significance for the nation's future.

Nevertheless, it is difficult to say that there will not be any nuclear threat to our nation in the future. This is because there is nuclear threat from the outside. This includes a dangerous country, Japan, which is intensely promoting its nuclear plan by accumulating more nuclear materials than necessary.

Viewing from this perspective, we can see that it is not a coincidence that the Japanese Government authorities babble about and persistently create a commotion about our nonexistent nuclear development and even raise the issue of nuclear inspection as a prerequisite in improving relations between the two countries in the DPRK-Japan talks. Here lies the ambitious purpose of the Japanese Government authorities.

Japan is carrying out all kinds of means and methods to become a great military power. Under the cloak of the peace constitution, it is hurrying to increase its arms and has already become a leading international military might. It is currently talking about instability in the Asia and Pacific situation, saying that there is a potential threat from someone, thus promoting a plan to build a strong defense force to gain independence and modernization. By doing so, it is working to complete its efforts in becoming a great military power.

It is no secret that as an important element in becoming a great military power, Japan has promoted preparations for arming itself with nuclear weapons. To achieve this, the Japanese Government has carried out offensive propaganda for a long time to persuade the Japanese people of the need to possess nuclear weapons.

Japan is continuing to buy plutonium, a primary material in producing nuclear weapons, from abroad. According to (Paul Weibentar), director of U.S. Nuclear Control Research Institute, Japan plans to secure 100 tons of plutonium by early 2000. He says that with this amount of plutonium, more nuclear warheads can be produced than the ones possessed by nuclear powers.

According to data, Japan will follow the United States and France in possessing the ability for reprocessing in 1995. Why is Japan accumulating more nuclear materials than necessary? However it tries to wrap this in a cloth of peace, its intrinsic nature cannot be hidden.

The international community's view is that Japan has has all the technical and material conditions it needs to easily possess nuclear weapons in just one day.

Being armed with nuclear weapons is an immediate important goal in the Japanese ruling class' plan to become a great military power. People all over the world are watching this nuclear weapon plan, and the Japanese people who have been exposed to nuclear weapons are strongly opposing it. To obtain some kind of justification for this plan, Japan is making preposterous charges against us—who have no nuclear weapons, do not intend nor are able to produce them, and have repeatedly expressed the willingness to receive fair nuclear inspection—saying that we are developing nuclear weapons and attempting to recklessly force us to accept the nuclear inspection.

As everyone can see, North and South Korea are moving together to achieve denuclearization, but Japan is building its nuclear potential in secrecy. Therefore, in reality it has become a country ready to possess nuclear weapons. Japan's enormous potential, such as having more plutonium than necessary, is the constant source of nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula.

Nuclear experts from various countries and publications recognize that Japan's maneuver to arm itself with nuclear weapons is a great threat to peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

At the present moment, when a declaration on the denuclearization on the Korean peninsula has been agreed upon between the North and South, a direct nuclear threat to our nation comes from Japan. This is not an issue of possibility but a practical issue.

It is no coincidence that people from all walks of life in South Korea are increasingly worried about Japan's nuclear potential. The first people who will suffer from Japan's nuclear threat is our whole nation. Therefore, our nation must prevent Japan's nuclear threat at any cost. To achieve this, the North and South must unite their strength and make joint efforts. Only through our nation's united strength can the danger created by Japan's nuclear threat be prevented.

The adoption of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the

North and South and the agreement on the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula show that if the North and South make sincere efforts together, that kind of national strength is sufficiently possible. With that united strength, they can easily prevent Japan's nuclear threat.

Japan's nuclear potential is a threat not only to the Korean people but also to the people of Asia and the rest of the world. The threat from Japan, which hopes to become a great political and military power, is very great.

At a time when the confrontational structure between super powers has been crumbled, it is even dreaming of playing a leading part in establishing a new international order. This hints that many countries and nations can be subjected to Japan's nuclear threat. An immediate need for the people of Asia and the world to work together to check Japan's nuclear threat is being presented. This is an imminent demand in view of the current situation.

If Japan's nuclear threat is not checked, the world might suffer a horrible disaster. Anyone who truly treasures world peace and stability should join in the international efforts to prevent Japan's nuclear threat. Japan must give up its nuclear weapons development program and refrain from creating a nuclear threat to our people.

Doing away with nuclear weapons and abolishing the danger of a nuclear war are intentions and tasks of the common people of the world. Japan must act with discretion in keeping with the trend of the times.

MINJU CHOSON on Japanese Nuclear Threat

SK1901085692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0821 GMT 19 Jan 92

["Where Does Nuclear Threat Come From?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa, when he met with No Tae-u in Seoul on January 16, said there is no change in Japan's position that the DPRK's "renunciation of the nuclear weapons development" and its "acceptance of nuclear inspection" are "important conditions" in negotiations for the normalization of Korea-Japan diplomatic relations, according to a report.

This is a grave challenge to the DPRK which has made strenuous efforts for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, says a MINJU CHOSON analyst today, adding:

We have stated more than once that we have neither intention nor capacity to develop nuclear weapons. We also made it clear that we have no objection to a nuclear inspection itself and we will accept it if fair treatment is assured.

At the end of last year the North and the South of Korea, motivated by the common mission to stave off the danger of a nuclear war and create circumstances favourable to peace and peaceful reunification by denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, initialed "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" and recently exchanged the texts of the document signed by the premiers of both sides.

The United States voiced welcome to it and other countries very positively reacted to it.

Under this condition, Japan, too, should have sincerely hailed it.

Nevertheless, the Japanese Government authorties are still arguing about the "danger of the nuclear weapons development" by the DPRK. It is intended to realise its design to arm Japan with nuclear weapons under this pretext.

Japan's nuclear arming is not a matter of a remote future but poses a potential danger.

The nuclear threat to Asian countries comes from Japan that is going ahead with the nuclear program, not from the DPRK with no nuclear weapons. Japan must look straight at the trend of the time, act with discretion and give up the design of nuclear weapons development.

Group Demands Japan Stop 'Nuclear Development'

SK2001054692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0525 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—Japan should abandon its dangerous nuclear development plan and stop at once such acts as posing a nuclear threat to the Korean people, declares Vice-Chairman Paek Nam-chun of the Korean Anti-nuke Peace Committee in a statement released Sunday. Recalling that nuclear arming has become an immediate major goal of Japan's plan to become a military power and it has been stepped up in real earnest of late, he continued: According to a testimony of Paul Leventhal, president of the U.S. Nuclear Control Institute, Japan plans to secure 100 tons of plutonium by the early 2000s which is enough to make more nuclear warheads than superpowers have at present and she will reportedly have a reprocessing capacity ranking third after the United States and France by 1995. The reality shows that Japan is building her nuclear potential in secrecy, thus virtually becoming a para-nuclear state. Now that a declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was agreed upon between the North and the South direct nuclear threat to our nation comes from Japan. It is as clear as noonday that the Korean people will have to suffer before any others from Japan's nuclear threat which is becoming a reality. Our nation is, therefore, faced with a weighty task to ward off the nuclear threat from Japan at any cost. What is most important here is for the North and the South to make concerted efforts to this end. The North and the South should not only step up the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula but undertake the struggle to thwart nuclear threat from outside as a common task of the nation and make sustained efforts to carry it out, stressed Paek Nam-chun.

Japan's nuclear potential cannot but be a menace not only to the Korean nation but to other peoples of Asia who suffered much from Japan's aggression in the past and the rest of the world.

This can be explained by Japan's wild ambition to become a political and military power and play a "leading role" in establishing the socalled "new international order" under the present world situation where the structure of superpower rivalry has been destroyed.

Historical experiences go to prove that should Japan's plan to become a military power, notably her nuclear arming, be overlooked, this will bring an irrevocable consequences not only to the Asian people but to the world people as well.

The prevailing situation makes it incumbent upon the Asian and other peoples of the world to go united to thwart Japan's nuclear arming, Paek declared, adding: We call upon the peaceloving peoples of Asia and the rest of the world to heighten vigilance against Japan's nuclear threat and make concerted efforts to thwart it and build a new peaceful and prosperous Asia and world free from nuclear weapons and war.

Daily: Japan Must Make War Crimes Compensation

SK2001053592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 20 Jan 92

["Japan Must Sincerely Apologize and Make Compensation for Her Unheard-of Crimes—NODONG SINMUN commentator's article"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government authorities must sincerely apologize with a sense of guilt for the unheard-of crimes Japan committed and square accounts with the past, urges NODONG SINMUN in a commentator's article today.

Recalling that the draft of Korean women as "comfort women" for the Japanese army was made clear recently by data preserved at the archives of the Japanese Defence Agency and at the Hokkaido Development Museum in Sapporo and that data about the draft of little girls as "comfort girls" were found, the article says:

When the truth surrounding the "comfort women" question was brought to full light the Japanese Government authorities could not help admitting the "state's responsibility" and making an "apology" for it.

But they are trying to duck their responsibility for compensation, contending that the question of "comfort women for the army" is a "matter different from the war compensation in principle" and it is "a matter to be dealt with by the court".

This is little short of refusing to admit the past crimes and to make compensation for them.

This attitude of the Japanese Government authorities is churning up resentment of the entire Korean nation.

As seen clearly in the question of "comfort women," Japan is unwilling to clearly apologize and make material compensation for the untold misfortunes and sufferings she imposed on the Korean and other Asian peoples till today when nearly half a century has passed since the Second World War ended.

This attitude of Japan has been fully manifested in the DPRK- Japan talks over the past one year.

For instance, the Japanese side at the talks argued that as the human and material damages Japan had inflicted upon the Korean people in the past were based on the then "law" there was no legal ground for it to make compensation for them and compensation could be made only when legal evidences were produced.

Japan's argument is unjustifiable either from the viewpoint of international law or moral ethics. It means that there is actually nothing to compensate, although they talk about compensation. This is the height of shamelessness.

It has been verified by history that Japan's occupation of Korea was illegal from A to Z and the Japanese imperialists had robbed Korea of huge resources including gold, silver, copper and iron and murdered a countless number of Koreans in 36 years.

The Japanese Government authorities cannot deny this hard fact and evade their responsibility for compensation, no matter what trick and pretext they may invent.

They remain dishonest, not waking from their old dream, and no sign of sincerity could be seen in their deeds.

We state in clear term that, if Japan wants to act a political power, she must know her position clearly and show sincerity and liquidate her past so that others may trust her. This is possible only when Japan has made a clean slate of her past. The Japanese Government authorities must bear in mind that indiscreet behaviour is by no means good to Japan.

Report Views Japan's Drafting of 'Comfort Girls'

SK1901082192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0801 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—It was disclosed that the Japanese imperialist aggressors drafted even Korean primary school girls as "comfort girls for the Army" during the Pacific war, a Seoul-based radio report said.

Japanese imperialists took more than 20 girls aged from 13 to 16 of Sosok Primary School in Kwangju, Nam and three other primary schools in Hwasun County, South Cholla Province, and over 200 girls in Pusan, Taegu and Chonju.

Many girls were also drafted from Seoul, North Chungchong Province and other places as Volunteer Corps.

School Children Drafted by Japanese Military

SK2001065592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—It has been disclosed that the Japanese imperialist aggressors conscripted even Korean primary school children during the Pacific war, a Seoul-based radio report said.

This was brought to light these days by the then school registers of several primary schools in Pusan, South Korea and confidential documents of the Defence Agency of Japan.

During the Pacific war the Japanese imperialist aggressors drafted schoolgirls as Volunteer Corps and schoolboys as cannon fodder.

In this connection, the Democratic Party of South Korea made public a statement on January 17. It said that the principal culprit of the crimes regarding the Volunteer Corps was made clear and that it could hardly repress indignation and shock. It also demanded that the Japanese Government apologise and compensate for it.

Protests Against Miyazawa Visit Continue in South

SK1801045692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0408 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—Protests of South Korean people of all strata against the visit of the Japanese prime minister continued on the 16th of January.

More than 100 members of five organizations including the Association of Bereaved Families of Martyrs held a meeting denouncing the junket of the Japanese prime minister and demanded that the truth behind the volunteer corps be opened to the public and compensation be made.

The participants in the meeting declared that the visit of the Japanese prime minister can by no means be accepted when there are no official apology and compensation on the part of Japan for her aggression on the Korean peninsula. At the end of the meeting they burnt the Japanese emperor in effigy. The June 3 fellowship society demanded in its statement that Prime Minister Miyazawa sincerely apologize and fully compensate for the problem of the volunteer corps into which Korean women were drafted as "comfort girls for Japanese Army" during the Pacific war to be violated and driven to despair and death.

Ten odd dissidents including Paek Ki-wan and Kye Hun-che held a news conference Thursday and urged the Japanese Government to thoroughly clarify the truth behind the volunteer corps problem and make a compensation in a responsible manner.

Man Killed During Demonstration

SK1901091792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0812 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)—The South Korean fascist clique killed 70-year-old Cho Ki-song on the scene of a demonstration against the South Korean tour of the Japapese prime minister on January 17, according to a radio report from Seoul.

This old man was sent to Japan for labour conscription in 1944 and subjected to all sufferings and humiliation. That day he joined more than 200 members of the Association of Bereaved Families of Pacific War Victims in marching toward the "capitol" where Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa was delivering an address. He breathed his last on the scene, his chest kicked by combat policemen.

This news has provoked bitter resentment among South Korean people of all walks of life against the No Tae-u fascist clique which savagely killed the old man.

Demonstrator's 'Murder' Denounced

SK2101053792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 21 Jan 92

["Cruel Murder"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities on January 17 hurled combat police against peaceful demonstrators who were denouncing the Japanese prime minister's tour of South Korea and let it murder an old man aged 70 in cold blood by a brutal assault.

This cruel human-butchery indicts to the whole world once again that the No Tae-u group is the most heinous group of fascist tyrants and murderers without an equal in the world, says a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today.

Recalling that the South Korean authorities made the hospital describe the death of the septuagenarian as one caused by "an attack of heart failure," the news analyst says:

This is a foolish attempt to cover up the atrocious murder committed by them.

The murder is entirely an inevitable outcome of the brutal sword-brandishing of the No group which has become more atrocious than ever before in its crackdown on the people with its tenure drawing to a close.

This cannot be dissociated with the No group's pro-Japanese sycophantic treacherous nature.

When the South Korean people, on the threshold of the Japanese prime minister's tour of South Korea, condemned the Japanese imperialists' criminal acts such as the drafting of Korean women as "comfort girls" and strongly demanded an apology and compensations for them, the No group issued a "top emergency order" to the puppet police and launched into a frenzied crackdown on people. This resulted in the tragic death.

The developments in South Korea prove that the traitor No's "Sixth Republic" dictatorship is a more barbarous military fascist rule than Pak Chong-hui's "yusin" dictatorship or Chon Tu-hwan's "Fifth Republic" dictatorship and that the South Korean society has been reduced to a fascist pandemonium of the worst human rights violation and wasteland of democracy, a hell of murder.

The No group, as the very one responsible for the murder, must face a stern judgement by the people.

More on Daewoo Business Group President's Visit

Visits Mangyongdae 17 Jan

SK1801045092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—Kim U-chung, president of the South Korean "Daewoo Business Group," and his party visited Mangyongdae on January 17.

They were accompanied by Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the External Economy Commission.

They saw round with keen interest the historical mementoes preserved in the old home of Mangyongdae where the great leader President Kim Il-song was born and spent his childhood, nursing his lofty intentions for the revolution.

They posed for a photograph in token of their visit to the old home in Mangyongdae.

Then they went round the Kwangbok and Chongchun Streets.

The Administration Council gave a banquet for them at the Mokran House in the evening.

Received by Kim Il-song 20 Jan

SK2001104692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Kim U-chung, president of the South Korean "Daewoo Business Group", and his party.

Present on the occasion were Kim Tal-hyon, vice-premier of the Administration Council and chairman of the External Economy Commission, and an official concerned.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with President Kim U-chung and his party in an atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic feelings and arranged a luncheon for them.

President Kim Il-song received a gift from President Kim U-chung.

Present Kim Chong-il Gift

SK2001111092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by the president of the South Korean "Daewoo Business Group".

The gift was handed to Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Chairman of the External Economy Commission Kim Tal-hyon by President Kim U-chung.

Yon Hyong-muk Meets Mongolian Economic Delegation

SK1701211492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 17 (KCNA)—Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, met and had a friendly conversation with the Mongolian Government economic delegation headed by J. Batsuuri, minister of national development, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present were Minister of Local Industry Kim Song-ku and the Mongolian ambassador to Korea.

Economic, Scientific Protocol Signed

SK1701155392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 17 (KCNA)—A protocol of the third meeting of the Korea-Mongolia Inter-Governmental Economic and Scientific-Technological Consultative Committee was signed here today.

It was signed by Minister of Local Industry Kim Song-ku on our side and Minister of National Development J. Batsuuri on the opposite side.

Further on WPK Delegation's Visit to India

Meets Indian Communist Party Head

SK1801145792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] On 13 January, Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India [CPI], met with the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation led by Comrade Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee. (M. Patoki), secretary of the CPI National Council, and Yu Tae-sop, our country's ambassador to India, attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the head of the delegation delivered greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to General

Secretary Indrajit Gupta. Expressing deep thanks for this, the general secretary asked the delegation head to deliver his greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. In addition, he asked the delegation head to deliver the greetings of the CPI leaders and all party members who wish them long life and good health. He said that he expressed respect for the WPK, which has brilliantly constructed socialism in the face of difficult conditions. He hoped that even more fruit will be borne through the efforts of the WPK and the Korean people for socialism. Ardently welcoming the achievements gained by the Korean people in the struggle to reunify the country, he said that he will positively support the reunification cause of the WPK and the Korean people.

Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

Meets Indian People's Union Leaders

SK1801150892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] On 13 January, (S.R. Pommai), chairman of the Indian People's Union, met with the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation led by Comrade Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee. (Namiras Pasion), vice chairman of the Indian People's Union; (Pursodam Kausik), (Harikiosin), and (Jaipalnedi), general secetaries of the Indian People's Union; and Yu Tae-sop, our country's ambassador to India, attended the meeting.

At the meeting, the delegation head delivered greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to Chairman (S. R. Pommai). Expressing deep thanks for this, the chairman asked the delegation head to deliver his greetings wishing them long life and good health. The chairman said that the Indian People's Union will positively support the Korean people's struggle to realize the country's reunification.

Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

Delegation Returns 18 Jan

SK1801151492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, flew back here today after attending the 14th congress of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

The delegation was met at the airport by Vice-Director of a department of the WPK Central Committee Kim Yang-kon and Indian and Chinese Ambassadors to Korea Shehkholen Kipgen and Zheng Yi.

SPA Delegation Departs for Egypt, Zimbabwe

SK1801105392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by its Chairman Yang Hyong-sop left here today to visit Egypt and Zimbabwe.

It was seen off at the airport by Vice-Chairman of the SPA Paek In-chun and Egyptian Ambassador to Korea 'Ali Hijazi.

Guinea Sends Kim Yong-nam Solidarity Message

SK1701043892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 17 (KCNA)—Guinean Foreign Minister Jean Traore sent a solidarity message to Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam expressing firm solidarity with the Korean people in their efforts for the peaceful reunification of the country.

The message notes:

I extend unconditional support to the stand of Korea for a fair and complete solution of all questions including the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty the aim of which lies in removing the danger of nuclear war.

I hope that all the signatories to this treaty will strictly respect the principle of fair implementation of the treaty and the Korean peninsula be converted into a nuclear free zone.

Vice Minister Kang Sok-chu Meets Guyanese Envoy

SK2101104392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)—First Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu today met and conversed with Ronald Mortimer Austin, newly-appointed ambassador of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him.

Foreign Minister Greets Nicaraguan Counterpart

SK1701235592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 17 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam sent a message of greetings to Ernesto Leal upon his appointment as foreign minister of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Expressing the belief that relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Nicaragua will continue developing favourably in the interests of the peoples of the two countries, the message wished him greater success in his responsible work.

Yang Hyong-sop Greets Trinidad, Tobago Leader

SK1701235892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 17 (KCNA)—Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, sent a message of greetings to Occah Seepaul on his election as speaker of the parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the law-making bodies of the two countries will grow stronger and develop in the future, the message wished him success in his responsible work.

O Chin-u Greets Mali Defense Minister

SK2001065192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Colonel Kanfougouna Kone, minister of defence and interior security, on the occasion of the 31st anniversary of the Army of Mali.

The message expressed the belief that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples and armies will further develop in the future.

O Chin-u Greets Lao Defense Minister

SK2001060192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Colonel General Choummali Sai-ngason, defence minister of Laos, on the occasion of the 43rd founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army.

The message expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples and armies will continue to grow stronger and develop on the road of the struggle for the accomplishment of the cause of socialism.

Envoy Presents Credentials to Zairian President

SK2001052092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song has wisely led the Korean people to make miraculous successes in the building of the nation and performed exploits which deserve praises from all the people, said Zairese President Mobutu Sese Seko on January 15 when he received credentials from the DPRK ambassador to his country.

It is a good luck of Korea that Secretary Kim Chong-il has been elected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, he noted, adding: We Support Korea's reunification, hoping the North and the South of Korea will achieve reunification in a peaceful way.

Korea-Cuba Friendship Parliamentary Group Formed

SK1801042892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0403 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—The Cuba-Korea Friendship Parliamentary Group was formed at the 10th session of the 3rd National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba on December 27 last year.

Jose Raul Amaro Salupu, president of the Supreme People's Court of the Republic of Cuba, was elected chairman of the group.

Palestine-Korea Friendship Association Renamed

SK2001103092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—A meeting was held in Tunis on January 10 to rename the Palestine-Korea Friendship Association the Palestine-Korea Friendship and Solidarity Committee.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairman Zakaria 'Abd-al-Rahim [name as reeceived] said they would work hard to further expand and develop the friendship and solidarity between the Palestinian and Korean peoples.

Letters to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were adopted there.

Meeting Marks Anniversary of Kim Il-song Work

SK2001113992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—A meeting marking the 40th anniversary of the publication of the classic work "*On Making Good Preparations for Universal, Free Medical Care*" by the great leader President Kim Il-song was held today at the People's Palace of Culture.

Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau, and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, was present at the meeting.

Vice-Premier of the Administration Council Chang Chol made a report at the meeting.

He said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave important teachings on making effective preparations for universal, free medical care on January 20, 1952 during the rigorous Fatherland Liberation War and in November that year took through a cabinet decision a historic step of enforcing a universal, free medical assistance system throughout the northern half of the Republic from January 1, 1953.

The reporter said: This work of the respected and beloved leader is a classical work which was the first in history to give comprehensive answers to the theoretical and practical questions in realizing the right of the working masses to medical treatment; it is a programmatic guideline which opened a bright prospect for establishing the most superior popular public health system centred on men and promoting the building of socialist and communist public health.

He recalled that the great leader advanced wise policies to consolidate and develop the successes made in introducing universal free medical service in the period of laying the foundation of socialism after war and energetically led the struggle to implement them and this resulted in the enforcement of the complete and universal free health care in February, 1960.

In order to further develop the free medical assistance system in conformity with the new requirements of our developing revolution in which the modelling of the whole society on the chuche idea has come in the foreground, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il expounded and solved all the theoretical and practical questions including the question of properly combining the traditional Korean medicine that suits the physical conditions of our people and to which they are accustomed down through history with western medicine.

He noted that today the universal, free medical care system demonstrates to the whole world the superiority and vitality of our socialist system centred on the people.

He called upon the public health workers to prepare themselves as revolutionaries who resolutely defend the superior socialist system and thoroughly protect the lives of our people and promote their health with a high pride in our leader, our party and our nation being the best and our socialism being the most superior.

Creation of 'Speed of the Nineties' Stressed

SK1701020792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0010 GMT 16 Jan 92

[NODONG SINMUN 16 January editorial: "Let Us Launch the Movement for Creating the Speed of the Nineties More Vigorously"]

[Text] In order to effect a new upsurge on all fronts of socialist construction upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address, it is imperative to keep launching the movement for creating the speed of the nineties vigorously.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We should make this meaningful year a year of victory most brilliant in our national annals by having the entire party, the whole country, and all the people effect a new upsurge in socialist construction.

This year we should vigorously wage a struggle to strengthen the nation's economic might by increasing electricity and coal production and developing rail transportation in the area of socialist economic construction and satisfactorily solve the issue of keeping the people fed, clothed, and housed in conformity with the socialist demand by concentrating efforts on agriculture and light industry and by building a large number of dwellings.

In order to successfully fulfill the revolutionary task facing us this year and to mark a great new upsurge in socialist construction, it is imperative for all the people in the country to rise up as one to wage a heroic all-nation struggle and continue the struggle for creating a new speed of the nineties under the leadership of the party.

The struggle for creating the speed of the nineties is a forward march designed to elevate the nation's socialist construction to a new height during the nineties on the basis of the might of the driving force behind our revolution which is united rock-firm around the party and leader.

By carrying out a vigorous struggle upholding the party's lofty intention to vigorously propel the chuche revolutionary cause with a great upsurge in socialist construction, our people have created a high speed stunning the world from the beginning of the nineties.

Thanks to this enormous forward march, the building of major construction projects aimed at strengthening the foundation for the nation's economy of self-reliance have been pushed ahead at a high speed unheard of and a miraculous success, namely the building of a 2,000 li waterway aimed at consummating the irrigation of the rural economy at a high level, has been attained in a short period of a few months.

During the last year, an amazingly rapid speed of forward march has been created in all battle sites, including the construction site of building 50,000 dwellings in the capital and the project of replacing the equipment at Hungnam Fertilizer Complex with large and modern equipment.

Not only is this a clear demonstration of the invincible might of our revolutionary ranks that bravely break through the mountains and roaring waves, with all the people in the country rising up as one to do what the party decides, but it is also a lofty expression of the revolutionary fighting spirit of our people who make strenuous efforts in the struggle in firm unity around the party, the more so when the situation is harder and greater.

We should make this meaningful year a year of victory most brilliant in the annals of our fatherland by retaining the high speed attained in the initial stage of the forward march of the nineties, without slackening the surging revolutionary spirit even a bit and putting new spurs to the forward march.

What is important in vigorously carrying out the movement for the creation of the speed of the nineties is to keep spiritedly marching in the first combat of this year by making effective use of the successes and the experience already acquired.

All the domains and units of socialist construction have attained new, innovative successes amid the flames of the struggle for the creation of the speed of the nineties and have produced major breakthroughs to expedite the forward march.

Important in any kind of works is what kind of decision to make and how to start doing it. All the domains of the national economy should spiritedly march forward with firm self-confidence and uncommon resolve.

Particularly important in this regard is to popularize the successes and experiences acquired by the forerunner units in all the domains and units and set higher goals in conformity with reality and then stubbornly translate them into action.

To uphold the party's leadership is a major guarantee to keep the flames of creating the speed of the nineties burning even more fiercely. Without our party's wise leadership, it is impossible to think about the fact that a stunning speed was set in motion in the beginning of the nineties.

With a firm will to bring about a decisive turning point in the struggle to consummate the chuche cause, our party has energetically led the struggle for creating a new high speed.

After having indicated already on the eve of the nineties a clear destination and direction for our people to advance, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has led the struggle in its vanguard with his uncommon courage and bold method. In particular, he has led the struggle so that all the functionaries, upholding the slogan "We serve the people," can completely implement party policies by displaying a high degree of revolution-mindedness, through his effort to strengthen the fighting power of party organizations in all directions.

As a result, the flames of creating the speed of the nineties began burning fiercely across the country, and all people have created a stunning speed in all fronts based on their rock-firm resolve that they can do what the party decides.

We should rise up as one in this year's all-out march at the behest of the party, cherishing the pride and self-respect that we are heroic people who have glorified the history of socialist construction under the leadership of the party.

The indomitable nature of our party lies in the fact that the party has struck its roots deep in the masses and the source of our people's being heroes lies in the party's wise leadership.

Party organizations and party functionaries at all levels should always go deep among the masses to work and share weal and woe with them, to do the party work of grabbing their hearts by ways worked out by the party and by political means, and to vigorously organize and mobilize them in performing new feats.

In particular, they should carry out the organizational and political work substantially so as to see to it that party members and working people completely understand the tasks and ways to fulfill them stated by the great leader, mark this year's meaningful holidays with a high degree of political zeal and great upsurges effected in socialist construction, thereby correctly leading and helping the masses to make the movement for creating the speed of the nineties a loyal assault of their own.

Very important in creating the speed of the nineties are the duties assigned to the functionaries and working people in charge of the leading sectors of the national economy, such as electricity and coal industries and rail transportation.

As stressed in his New Year address by the great leader, to increase power and coal production and to develop rail transportation are the most important and pressing tasks arising in this year's socialist economic construction. Functionaries and working people in this sector, clearly remembering the importance of the tasks they are to fulfill in the struggle for creating the speed of the nineties, should satisfactorily fulfill their obligations and role as the spearhead of economic construction by expanding the production capacity even further, by making the most effective use of the already existing production facilities, and by improving and renovating technology without end.

The might of the movement for creating the speed of the nineties is at once the might of ideology. The people's burning loyalty and revolutionary zeal to honor the party's intentions and plans are to play a decisive role in attaining greater success in this year's struggle.

When everyone at every post makes decisions after opening his eyes to his being the master, there will be nothing that he cannot achieve. All the functionaries and working people should display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle even higher in today's all-out march as explained in his New Year address by the great leader.

The revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle is an indomitable fighting spirit necessary to make our people advance in their struggle without wavering even a bit in the face of mounting difficulties and tribulations, as well as the source of undying creative energy with which our people have built a powerful socialist fatherland from scratch.

The successes attained in the past struggle for creating the speed of the nineties show that when the spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle is displayed high under today's conditions, it will give birth to genuinely surprising miracles.

Functionaries and working people should cultivate a mettle of fulfilling, with a sense of obligation, revolutionary tasks assigned to them with their own raw materials and resources, their own strength and technology, without fail. In particular, the Korean People's Army soldiers and builders, party members, and working people at leading industrial sectors who are engaged in building major construction projects, with the spirit displayed in last year's project of replacing the facilities at Hungnam fertilizer complex with large, modern ones, should actively struggle to hasten the date of putting them into operation as they have pledged to the party and to overfulfill production targets by manufacturing what is nonexistent and seeking out more of what is in short supply.

At the same time, they should turn all the creations of the nineties built in our own way and on our own strength into long-range creations that will glorify our party's exploits forever.

Functionaries should ambitiously do the organizational and commanding work designed to create an extraordinarily high speed from the first battle of the new year with powerful revolution-mindedness.

Functionaries should clearly set goals to be achieved in their domains and units during this year and the stages to realize them, carefully organize the division of labor, and strenuously carry out the struggle for their realization.

In particular, functionaries should keep attaining greater successes in implementing the party's economic policy by correctly giving play to the masses' creativeness and doing a good job of providing technical and economic guarantees for production and construction in conformity with the demands of the Chongsan-ri spirit and method and the Taean work system.

All functionaries, party members, and working people should create new miracles and feats in all battle sites of socialist construction by making the fiery wind of the speed battle burn even more fiercely in firm unity around the party.

KCNA Reviews NODONG SINMUN for 20 Jan

SK2001071892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today frontpages an editorial calling for more firmly establishing chuche principle in all fields of politics, economy and culture in accordance with our general direction in the present socialist construction indicated by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

It is reported in the paper that a meeting for renaming the model State Kindergarten No.1 in Ovorhangay Province, Mongolia, after Kim Il-song was held with the approach of his birthday.

Printed in the paper are messages to President Kim Il-song from permanent representative of the Dominican Communist Party in Cuba Santiago Guillermo and Secretary General of the Swiss Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification Martin Lotsches on the signing of the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South".

An article of the paper says that President Kim Il-song indicated the road to socialist cooperativisation and wisely led our party and the people in the struggle for its realization. The paper conveys words of overseas compatriots lauding the undying revolutionary exploits of President Kim Il-song and expressing their national pride of being led by him.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il saw and highly appreciated the cucumber seeds and letter presented by the pomiculture faculty of Wonsan University of Agriculture and sent thanks of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] to it, says the paper.

The paper runs an article headlined "The Three Revolutions Are Driving Force in Firmly Establishing Chuche Principle in All Fields of Society."

A delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea led by Secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK Kim Yong-sun left here Sunday to attend the Korea-U.S. high-level talks, says the paper.

The paper reports that the president of the People's Party of India met a delegation of the WPK and the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Portuguese Communist Party met the DPRK ambassador.

Given in the paper is a statement issued by Vice-Chairman of the Korean Anti-Nuke, Peace Committee Paek Nam-chun in denunciation of Japan posing nuclear threat to the Korean people.

The paper in a commentary lashes at the South Korean authorities for intensifying the suppression of the labour movement.

The paper carries an article exposing the hideousness of the "law on supervision for public peace" fabricated for the "ideological conversion" of those released from prison in South Korea.

A co-chairman of the South Korean Democratic Party urged the authorities to clarify the truth behind the power-backed scandals.

NEW KOREA TIMES, a Korean newspaper published in Canada, carried an article denouncing the No Tae-u regime which does not take any step to implement the

North-South agreement and an article of the Seoul correspondent of JIJI disclosing flesh traffic in South Korea, says the paper.

The paper reports that South Koreans denounced the Japanese imperialists who drafted even primary school girls into the Volunteers Corps during the Pacific war and are waging a Japanese goods boycott movement.

The paper carries a commentator's article dealing with the problem of "comfort girls for the army" drafted by the Japanese imperialists. It stresses that the Japanese Government authorities must sincerely apologize and clearly liquidate the past with a sense of guilt for the unheard-of crimes committed by Japan in the past.

Included in the international news columns of the paper are reports that the second-stage session of the Middle East peace conference was held in Washington, the Kenyan president exposed the danger of the "multi-party system" the West is trying to impose on his country and the Arab Parliamentary Union denounced the anti-ibyan campaign of the United States and Britain.

It informs the readers that the people's action to terminate the racist rule and build a new democratic South Africa is growing in strength in South Africa.

It introduces the efforts of the Egyptian, Tunisian, Morrocan and Namibian peoples to build a new life.

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 18 Jan

SK1801053792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 18 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry news that the great leader President Kim Il-song's New Year address was reported by foreign newspapers, seminars and lectures on his New Year address were held in Benin and India and his New Year address was deeply studied in foreign countries.

Printed in the press are messages of greetings to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il sent by foreign party and state leaders on the new year.

Papers inform the readers that works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were reported in foreign countries and a professor of the Chonnam National University in South Korea highly praised him.

MINJU CHOSON in an article says that Comrade Kim Chong-il has wisely led the Korean People's Army to become the invincible revolutionary armed forces.

NODONG SINMUN carries an account of the 8th national study contest of question-and-answer form, the study method of anti-Japanese guerrilla style to deeply understand our party's ideas and theories.

Papers report that high-level talks will be held between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, a protocol of the third meeting of the Korea-Mongolia inter-governmental economic and scientific-technological consultative committee was signed in Pyongyang, Korean paddler Yu Son-pok, people's sportswoman, was awarded Baihe Cup to those chosen as the best Asian players in 1991 and the Cuba-Korea Friendship Parliamentary Group was formed.

Given in the press is news that the project for building of a Taekwon-do hall is rapidly progressing in Pyongyang and innovations are taking place in the production of coal, minerals and log.

Given in NODONG SINMUN is an account of the sojourn of the president of the South Korean "Daewoo Business Group" and his party in Pyongyang.

It comments on the crash of U.S. Imperialists' "U-2" reconnaissance plane while in a flight for espionage on the northern half of Korea.

According to the press, the chairman of the Japan Regional Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification called for a dynamic advance in order to make 1995 the first year of reunification, a "White Paper on the Suppression of South Korean Labour Movement" was published in South Korea and South Korean people are continuing their protests against the Japanese prime minister's tour.

Printed in papers is the third instalment of a travelogue on Pyongyang by coed Pak Song-hui, a delegate of the National Council of Student Representatives of South Korea.

NODONG SINMUN in an article contends that due attention should be paid to the settlement of political and military problems. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities staged joint aerial war exercises and aerial espionage, it reports.

Appearing in the paper are a commentator's article headlined "Let Us Ward Off Japan's Nuclear Threat by the Nation's Concerted Efforts" and a report that an American nuclear expert warned against the danger of Japan's plan for the purchase of plutonium.

International news of the daily includes reports that the Syrian president condemned Israel's obstructive moves against peace, the Indonesian president called for cooperation among the developing nations, the president of the State of Palestine called for continued struggle against Israel and talks were held between the Ukraine and Russia on military and political issues.

"Downfall of Capitalism is Inevitable" is the title of an article of the paper.

South Korea

U-2 Pilot's Body Recovered From Ocean

SK1701101792 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 17 Jan 92 p 2

[YONHAP report from Sokcho]

[Text] It was learned that a military police joint search team that had been searching for the wreckage of the U-2 plane and the pilot's body found and recovered the body at around 1600 on 16 January in the sea 15 miles east of Kojin, Kosong County, Kangwon Province.

U.S.-DPRK High-Level Contacts Previewed

Yi Sang-ok To Be Briefed

SK2001023392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0150 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok will meet with Arnold Kanter, U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, in Washington before the North Korean-U.S. high-level contact on Wednesday.

Kanter is to meet with Kim Yong-sun, Workers' (Communist) Party secretary in charge of international affairs, in New York. It is the first officially-announced vice minister-level contact between North Korea and the United States.

Yi leaves for Washington Monday night to attend an international conference on aid to the former Soviet Union. He is to meet with Kanter on Tuesday morning over breakfast and talk privately with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in the afternoon.

He is to be briefed on the results of the North Korean-U.S. contact on Thursday morning before he heads back to Seoul.

A U.S. State Department spokesman, in announcing the first high-level U.S. contact with North Korea, said the talks would mainly deal with nuclear issues and other matters North Korea wishes to address.

PRC Supports Contacts

SK1901135592 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 16 Jan 92 p 7

[Article by reporter Kang Tae-ho]

[Text] Reviewing the developments in North Korea last week, we note the vice ministerial level high-level contact scheduled between the United States and North Korea and the North Korean call for the United States to change its policy toward North Korea in connection with this contact.

We also note that China, in step with this trend, is expressing deep interest in the alleviation of tension on the Korean peninsula, with a pronouncement that it is willing to play a positive role in it.

With the Tokyo declaration which proclaimed the U.S.-Japanese relations based on equal cooperative partnership relations and China's independent Asian diplomacy forming a new triangular strategic relations among the United States, China, and Japan, the surrounding situation seems to be heading for a new order built by cross-recognition.

It has been disclosed that the diplomatic contact between North Korea and the United States, which will be made after 20 January, will be a vice ministerial contact, which is one step higher than the assistant ministerial level previously anticipated. It is rather surprising that the United States is reported to have shown a more active attitude than North Korea in this process. It seems that there were differences in views as to the time of the talks, level of participants, and contents of the talks.

According to the reports that have been released so far, the United States made it clear that the contact does not automatically lead to the improvement of relations between the two countries by setting the level of the contact at an ambassadorial level and limiting the agenda of talks to the nuclear issue. This U.S. position must have had something to do with the 5 January statement of the White House security aide Scowcroft that the United States will continue reconnaissance activities of North Korea and U.S. President Bush's remarks that the United States will not change its plan to freeze the second stage U.S. troop reduction plan until such time as the suspicion of North Korea's nuclear development disappears. It is understandable that North Korea naturally was repulsed by this position taken by the United States.

On the other hand, however, the United States made it known that it is looking forward to a contact with North Korea, making it clear that if North Korea signs the nuclear safeguards accord and implements it, the councillor level talks in Beijing will be upgraded to ambassadorial level and that this will be followed by steps toward the normalization of relations.

In the meantime, North Korea called upon the United States by such means as NODONG SINMUN to withdraw its troops from the South, to abandon the policy of hostility toward the North, to respond to the North's call for the improvement of relations.

In particular, the 9 January NODONG SINMUN commentary shows well how North Korea is making diplomatic use of the nuclear issue. NODONG SINMUN in this commentary stated that "the U.S. policy of hostility toward the North is far from beneficial not only for peace and reunification of Korea but for the United States itself." Meanwhile, the paper criticizes Japan for acting differently from the United States and other countries of the world that are positively appraising the inter-Korean joint denuclearization declaration.

Meanwhile, China welcomes and supports through a government statement whenever an announcement is made on the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise and on the North Korean-U.S. high level contact.

Though China distributed the study literature for party members branding President Bush's visit to Asian countries, including Japan and the ROK, as a policy designed to blockade China, Premier Li Peng, in his talks with Japan Socialist Party Chairman Tanabe, said that "Japan and China ought to make efforts to help improve inter-Korean relations," thus assisting North Korea in its diplomacy.

Also noteworthy in this connection are the reports of Beijing Radio and the pro-Chinese papers in Hong Kong on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and China.

Editorial Urges Caution

SK1901120492 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 19 Jan 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Vice Ministerial Level Contact Between the United States and North Korea"]

[Text] U.S.-North Korean relations have finally reached a point where they can develop vice ministerial level contacts. The venue for such contacts is moving to the United States from Beijing. Kim Yong-sun, director of International Department of North Korea's Workers Party is due to hold talks with the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs in New York on 22 January. This means that the dialogue channel between the United States and North Korea is being elevated to a higher level.

The first contact between the United States and North Korea took place on 6 December 1988 in Beijing. From that time on the two sides have continued contacts at the level of embassy political counselor mainly in Beijing and the upcoming contact is the first contact at the vice ministerial level. This shows that rapid progress is being made in U.S.-North Korean relations.

We hope that such contacts between the United States will make an affirmative contribution both to the international community and relations between the South and North.

As long as U.S.-North Korean contacts at the vice ministerial level contribute to South-North relations and peace on the Korean peninsula, we have no reason to oppose them. The United States has been in a hurry to improve relations with North Korea for two reasons.

The first objective the United States has in mind in improving its relations with North Korea is to coax North Korea to open itself up as part of an effort to provide a war deterrent on the Korean peninsula. The second is that the United States found it desirable to improve its relations with North Korea in any form following the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and the former Soviet Union. Until now, the United States has demanded that North Korea agree to international inspection of its nuclear facilities, give up international terrorism, make progress in talks with the South, return the remains of U.S. soldiers missing in action during the Korean war, and cease throwing mud at the United States, however.

How often has the United States seen its demands met? The return of the remains of five U.S. soldiers was the most the United States could have been able to extract from North Korea. Even though North Korea signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and has agreed to allow international inspectors, it remains to be seen whether it will keep its promises in full.

U.S. President Bush, too, threw doubt on North Korea's promises during his recent visit to Korea. He even went so far as to rebut North Korea's saying that it has neither the ability nor the intention to produce nuclear weapons as a stark lie. His rebuttal may be true as U.S. military experts and technically advanced Western countries have revealed on several occasions intelligence on North Korea's nuclear development projects. As far as its international terrorism is concerned, the United States has no evidence to trust North Korea. There is no question that the United States is aware of the anti-U.S. hostility being encouraged in North Korea as well as its double-dealing strategy aimed at forcing U.S. troops to withdraw from the South.

What we are concerned about is how the United States will view North Korea which, while presenting a smiling face, keeps a sword hidden in its sleeve. Our opinion is that the United States must set limits on improving its relations with North Korea unless the latter rectifies itself of such negative images.

In this context, it is necessary for the United States to see through North Korea's intentions and be discreet in promoting contacts with the latter. If North Korea tries to achieve its insidious political goals through the contacts, while keeping the South out in the cold, it is apparently something the United States must stand guard against. This is why the United States should maintain close consultations with Korea in advance in its move toward improving its relations with North Korea. We hope that the upcoming contact between the United States and North Korea will serve as an opportunity for U.S. demands as such being met in full.

Contact Said To Favor DPRK

SK2101050092 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 20 Jan 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Our View of U.S.-North Korean Vice Minister-Level Talks"]

[Text] The United States and the North Korean authorities finally are scheduled to hold a vice minister-level talk on 22 January. In our eyes, the vice minister-level talk between the two sides appears to have a two-fold purpose. First, the United States seems to have concluded that it cannot hope for a satisfactory settlement of North Korea's nuclear issue if the matter is left to the South and North to be resolved through an agreement and, therefore, it may have no choice but to negotiate directly with the responsible North Korean authorities. Second, the North Korean authorities can be said to have achieved their goal, namely direct talks with the United States, for which it has importuned for decades, on the strength of what is known as the "nuclear card."

Frankly speaking, the ROK must watch with keen attention to see what direction the talks between the two sides will take. This is because we seem to have failed to hammer out a South-North agreement that can be wholeheartedly accepted by the United States, our ally. This, in turn, may have provoked the United States to find the South-North agreement unsatisfactory and believe that unless it conducts direct negations with North Korea by elevating the channel of dialogue, it cannot achieve what it set out to pursue.

We are concerned about the possibility that North Korean authorities are trying to take it upon themselves to play the role of the representative of "one Korea" in its relations with the United States, thereby making the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons and U.S. troops something inevitable, while tying us to the sweet-sounding three principles for national reunification of "independence, peace, and great national unity" in a bid to keep us from being hostile to them.

Now, what kind of standing does the South enjoy? North Korea may well obtain the money and technology from the United States and Japan necessary to revive its sagging economy, instead of turning to its fellow countrymen. It will do this by making itself appear to have met U.S. and Japanese demands, such as admission into the United Nations, the opening of its nuclear facilities to international inspections, and progress in South-North dialogue, all of which the two countries had set as conditions for conducting talks with North Korea. Whereas, the South, which is not only mistrusted by the United States, but also suffers from trade deficits with Japan, may end up struggling with its economic recession and the chaos caused by elections while helping North Korea revive.

Arnold Kanter, U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, no doubt will press Kim Yong-sun, director of the International Department of North Korea's Workers Party, to affirm whether North Korea will agree to an international inspection of its nuclear facilities. It appears inevitable that Kim Yong-sun, in response to the former's insistence, will ask the United States for an acceptable guarantee.

Understandably, the United States said its contact with North Korea at the level of vice ministers is only a "one-shot" talk that will not be used again. The United States avoided commenting on whether it will guarantee the establishment of diplomatic relations with North Korea. Nevertheless, if North Korea realizes what the United States wants and needs from it and if these U.S. demands turn out to be something it can exchange with its own demands, North Korea will try to keep the vice minister-level talks in place instead of throwing them away as a "one-shot" talk.

If and when any kind of progress is made in the contact with the United States, it will goad North Korea to make rapid progress in its sixth round of contacts with Japan scheduled for 26 January. This in turn will enable North Korea to gain more in its late starting diplomacy toward the United States and Japan than the diplomatic successes our government has been able to secure in its northern policy at a greater cost.

In a sense, it is possible that the vice minister-level contact between the United States and North Korea will subject us to as great a shock as the Armistice Agreement signed 39 years ago despite our vehement opposition. This was a diplomatic blunder and a severe blow. We hope it will turn out to be a groundless worry. If we are unable to avoid such a blow, however, we must know that it is a result of us lacking firm strategy and principles against the Kim Il-song group that has suppressed the 20 million brethren in North Korea.

Reactions to DPRK Denuclearization Noted

Editorial Cites CIA Director

SK1801100992 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 17 Jan 92 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. CIA's Nuclear Information Catches Our Attention"]

[Text] North Korea's nuclear issue can be summarized in two points: first, North Korea's capability to produce the raw material for nuclear bombs; second, the means to deliver the nuclear bomb. Now it is widely known that North Korea has the nuclear facilities to serve the first purpose and the aircraft and Scud missiles to satisfy the second purpose.

The U.S. CIA director reconfirmed this at Senate hearings. According to his testimony, North Korea completed the installation of two nuclear reactors to produce the plutonium essential for manufacturing nuclear bombs. One of these reactors has been in operation for four years, and the remaining one will be commissioned this year. North Korea has already completed and begun operating a G-1 [expansion unknown] nuclear reactor with its own technology to produce the plutonium, and a third one is under construction in Yongbyon.

The third reactor will not produce plutonium, but plutonium could be extracted from the waste fuel discharged from this reactor if it is reprocessed. Thus, when Yongbyon's nuclear reprocessing facilities are put into operation, North Korea will be able to produce the raw material for nuclear bombs on its own. According to the U.S. CIA director, North Korea is also at the stage of producing missiles very soon with a range of 1,000 km, which can reach as far as Osaka, Japan; Vladivostok, Russia; and Shanghai, China.

When we consider North Korea's nuclear facilities and delivery means, we can easily understand why North Korea's nuclear capability is posing a threat to the countries on the periphery of the Korean peninsula as well as to South Korea. This is why North Korea's nuclear issue is becoming a target of international apprehension beyond the Korean peninsula; even the United States, Japan, and China are demanding that North Korea abandon nuclear weapons development. In response to this, North Korea announced that it would sign the nuclear safeguards accord with International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] soon and would accept the IAEA's inspection.

At the same time, North Korea revealed its intention to scrap the nuclear facilities and adopted the "joint declaration on a nuclear- free Korean peninsula" with South Korea. No one can deny that such a change in North Korea's attitude is affirmative and welcome. The problem is when, how, and how thoroughly North Korea will put its policies and declaration into practice. If prompt action does not follow, the change in North Korea's attitude will be meaningless.

This is the very point over which the United States is skeptical. Such a skeptical view was deepened again during the U.S. Senate hearings. Actually, the "joint declaration on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula," which was agreed on, signed, and will take effect soon, left measures undecided so that the nuclear control joint committee could agree on the ones to be put into practice. Accordingly, even if North Korea accepts the IAEA's inspection and the South-North simultaneous inspection is realized, we can not help doubting whether the North Korea's nuclear issue can really be resolved.

All depends on North Korea's will. If North Korea's regime really wants a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, it has no reason to hesitate. North Korea's recent moves confuse us in judging what North Korea intends to do, however. Despite the pledges not to slander and insult each other in the South-North agreement, the North continues to slander and insult the South.

Under such circumstances, no one will believe in the efficacy of the South-North agreement and the joint declaration on nuclear-free Korean peninsula that will take effect. When North Korea realizes that its nuclear weapons are an explosive issue which burden it, it will understand that the sooner the nuclear issue is resolved, the more it will benefit.

North, South Exchange Agreements

SK2101082592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0810 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea exchanged texts of a six-point denuclearization agreement, co-signed by their prime ministers, in a working-level meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom on Tuesday. Vice Unification Minister Yim Tong-won represented the South and roving Ambassador Choe U-chin was his northern counterpart at the meeting.

The accord on making the divided Korean peninsula nuclear-free will enter into force upon a formal exchange of copies on Feb. 19 during the sixth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang.

They exchanged copies of the agreement signed by one prime minister for co-signing Jan. 14.

The historic accord, reached on New Year's Eve, followed the Dec. 13 inter-Korean reconciliation agreement. It prevents both Koreas from testing, manufacturing, producing, accepting, possessing, storing, deploying and using nuclear weapons.

South and North Korea are also to implement inspections of nuclear facilities selected by the other side and agreed on by both sides through the joint nuclear control committee, which is to be formed within one month of the accord taking effect.

DPRK Envoy Notes Upcoming Accords

SK2101062892 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 21 Jan 92 p 2

[By reporter Choe Maeng-ho from Vienna]

[Text] Chon In-chan, North Korean ambassador in Vienna, said on 20 January that North Korea would sign the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on 30 January and send a vice minister-level official to Vienna for the signing.

In connection with this, an IAEA spokesman said a North Korean delegation led by Hong Kun-pyo, vice minister of atomic energy industry, will visit Vienna on 28 January to sign the nuclear safeguards accord.

Counter-Spy Group Examines DPRK Arms Buildup

SK2101050592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0451 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—North Korea added more than 10,000 people, 100 tanks and a host of guerrilla warfare equipment to its armed forces last year, the Counter-Espionage Headquarters said Tuesday.

In addition to men and tanks, the North Koreans acquired more than 40 inflatable boats for infiltration, a spokesman for the headquarters said in a meeting held in the Defense Ministry to discuss measures to prevent possible North Korean infiltration.

He reminded the government and security officials that the possibility of North Korean armed provocation had not diminished despite the inter-Korean agreements for reconciliation and non-nuclearization and that South Korea must remain alert.

North Korea continues to hold infiltration maneuvers and demand that South Korea cancel its exercises with the United States such as "Team Spirit," which is defensive in nature and "Rim-Pac," he said.

North Korea is likely to stir disunity in the South through heavy propaganda before the elections, he said. The public, the government and the military needed to be more aware of national security than ever before, he told the meeting.

Kim Chong-il Reported To Replace Kim Il-Song

Kim Chong-il Confirms Succession

SK1901125892 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Report by correspondent Yi Yun-sang from Tokyo]

[Text] Pyongyang radio, monitored in Tokyo on 18 January, carried a talk on legitimacy to inherit and complete the party's revolutionary cause, which referred to Secretary Kim Chong-il's speech, in which he said he will inherit the cause of the leader who pioneered the road of the revolution as a faithful successor. The talk said that Kim Chong-il stressed independently and scientifically dealing with the fundamental problems for the ultimate victory of the communist revolution.

The North Korean affairs expert here said this is the second time Kim Chong-il has directly referred to he himself as the successor. His first such reference was when he was elected KPA supreme commander last December. The North Korean affairs expert noted that official media for the first time directly referred to Kim Chong-il, himself, confirming that he is to be successor to Kim Il-song. The expert anticipated that reports on Secretary Kim Chong-il will be stepped up in all fields in North Korea because reports of this nature provide conditions that enable the power of the state and the party to be transferred smoothly to Kim Chong-il.

'Short-Lived' Rule Expected

SK1801013492 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2300 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Report by KBS-1 radio correspondent Kim Song-ki in Moscow on 18 January (local time)—live]

[Text] According to Moscow's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, the power transfer to Kim Chong-il is likely to be announced on 15 April, which is Kim Il-song's 80th birthday. Kim Chong-il's power is very likely to be toppled by a military coup d'etat sooner or later, however. In an article entitled "The Great Leader Kim Il-song Is Disappearing Behind the Shade of the Dear Leader Kim Chong-il," this newspaper made a detailed analysis on the North's prospects after Kim Il-song. This paper says that although Kim Chong-il will reign over the North with iron-fisted rule at the beginning, he is likely to resort to a more appeasing policy toward the outside to obtain some aid, so that he can feed his people who are suffering from hunger.

In view of various conditions surrounding him, prospects are Kim Chong-il's power will be short-lived. The newspaper also reports that his regime will collapse due to a military coup d'etat rather than by a people's revolution.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA says that if the coup d'etat takes place, there is a 90 percent possibility that Beijing, which has been deeply involved in North Korea's diplomatic policy since the Korean war, will intervene.

The newspaper further reports that the Beijing authorities will choose a general to replace Kim Chong-il and will push ahead with a Chinese-style reform within the scope that will not fundamentally change the North's political structure due to their fear that the unpredictable events in North Korea including the crumbling of the Communist Party may take place.

There is another possibility of a Romanian or Albanian-style popular uprising, however. In this case, the military troops will be mobilized, leading to an enormous bloody event. Thus many North Koreans will flee to the South.

Reportage Continues on Japanese Premier's Visit

Releases Statement in Seoul

OW1801003892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0020 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 18 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa left Seoul Saturday morning for Pusan after winding up two rounds of summit talks with President No Tae-u on Thursday and Friday.

Miyazawa, who arrived in the South Korean capital Wednesday for a three-day official visit, is to tour the ancient capital of Kyongju before returning to Tokyo Saturday evening.

Before departing from Seoul, Miyazawa said the forced prostitution of Korean women during the war is "an issue Japan cannot avoid."

In a statement released by his secretary, Miyazawa said Japan should bear in mind the events of the past and consider future Japan-South Korea relationships.

Miyazawa also expressed his intention to seriously tackle the trade imbalance with South Korea, saying Japan must make its utmost effort to solve the problem.

On the two rounds of summit talks with South Korean President No Tae-u, the Japanese prime minister said they exchanged views on bilateral relations in the context of Asia and the world and were able to lay a groundwork for cooperation between the two nations.

Departs Seoul for Kyongju

SK1801014492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0123 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa left Seoul on Saturday morning for Kyongju, a town in southwestern South Korea with many historic relics and cultural assets, for a rest before returning to Japan on Saturday evening.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik saw him off at Seoul Airport in a farewell ceremony.

In Kyongju, Miyazawa will visit the National Museum, Sukgulam and Bulkuk Temple.

He is scheduled to leave Korea from Kimhae Airport near Pusan at 5:15 p.m., winding up a three-day visit to Korea.

Speaks in Kyongju, Departs ROK

SK1801101992 Seoul YONHAP in English 1007 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Kyongju, South Korea, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa left Korea for home Saturday after visiting this ancient city on the last-day itinerary of his three-day official visit, during which he had two rounds of summit meeting with President No Tae-u.

Guided by Kyongju Mayor Yi Won-sik, Miyazawa observed the inside of the Chonma-Chong Mound, the tomb of King Chinhung (A.D.437-514) of the Silla Dynasty, for 25 minutes in the morning.

The Japanese prime minister expressed keen interest in the remains and burial accessaries kept at the old tomb.

Miyazawa said in a speech at a luncheon hosted by Yi Pan-sok, governor of North Kyongsang Province, that he was the first Japanese prime minister to visit Kyongju, which he said was the origin of the Japanese culture. He hoped that more of the Silla culture would be publicized in his country.

After visiting Pulkuk-sa Temple and the National Museum in this old capital of Silla, Miyazawa headed for Kimhae Airport to board his plane.

Envoy to Japan Interviewed on Miyazawa Visit

SK2101084292 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Jan 92 p 2

[Interview with O Chae-hui, ROK ambassador to Japan, by reporter Pak Tu-sik on 20 January]

[Text] Following are the questions and answers between Ambassador O Chae-hui, presently in Seoul, and reporter Pak Tu-sik.

[Reporter Pak Tu-sik] What is the significance of the summit talks between President No Tae-u and Prime Minister Miyazawa?

[Ambassador O Chae-hui] Most important of all is that the two countries have started to seek cooperation in such specific areas as trade imbalance, departing from their old positions of confining their negotiations to matters of principle and matters of a general nature. Another important thing is that Prime Minister Miyazawa was the first Japanese prime minister to stress the need for the two countries to have a correct understanding of the past and to promise that his government will take follow-up measures so that future generations have a clear view of historic events.

[Pak] What plan do you have for the settlement of the trade imbalance?

[O] In the past, the Japanese Government would not have come so far as to mention such words as "practical plan" for rectifying the trade imbalance. In a sense, the fact that the two countries have agreed to hammer out a detailed plan to rectify the trade imbalance by the end of June is great progress. Given the attitude of the Japanese Government up until now, however, the prospect for negotiations is not very bright. Nevertheless, I think the two countries will produce good results if they discuss problems and demands in working talks. I hope for a more forward-looking stand from the Japanese side.

[Pak] Some say that the ROK side's demands that Japan lower duties on our country's major export items and that it transfer technology to Korea were unreasonable in the first place. What do you say?

[O] Even if duties on our 16 major export items, such as footwear, are lowered, it will contribute to lopping only $100 million off Korea's trade deficit with Japan, slightly more than 1 percent of the of $8.8 billion trade deficit. Our country's demand that Japan lower duties and transfer technology is reasonable in that the duties imposed on our export items symbolize Japan's discriminative trade policy.

[Pak] Do you see any solution to such issues as compensation for 'comfort girls?'

[O] A no-holds-barred investigation should go before compensation. When the scope of the victims is brought into the open, it will lead to a settlement and we need to watch the process of related court cases in Japan.

[Pak] Will the latest Korea-Japan summit meeting have an impact on future Japan-North Korea negotiations for establishing diplomatic relations?

[O] The leaders of Korea and Japan have once again affirmed that the five preconditions for Japan-North Korea negotiations for diplomatic relations, as agreed upon last January with then Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu, are still valid. Even after Japan's long-term policy toward Asia is taken into consideration, there will be no sudden change of course in the tripartite cooperation system among the United States, Japan, and Korea.

Analyses, Editorials Follow Miyazawa Visit

Problematic Economic Ties

SK1801025692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 Jan 92 p 2

["News analysis" by staff reporter Kang Song-chol]

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to South Korea has helped remind both countries of the current status of bilateral relations.

His two rounds of talks with President No Tae-u showed that Seoul and Tokyo are in relatively good terms in political and security stance, but not in economic fronts.

Miyazawa, who will wind up his three-day visit to South Korea today, has given no major economic concessions that Seoul had eagerly sought.

Instead, he just offered an apology for Japanese wartime atrocities against Koreans.

Miyazawa adamantly refused to accept Seoul's key proposals aimed at reducing the Japan's huge trade surplus with Korea.

He made it clear that Japan will consider Seoul's request for lowering Japanese tariffs on major Korean imports only as part of its Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

On the call for opening Japanese construction market to Korean firms, he just said the two governments should continue to talk.

The two major proposals were not even included in the list of subjects for the so-called action program which officials of both countries said are designed to correct the trade imbalance and promote technology transfer.

The lack of "economic breakthrough" must have greatly disappointed President No, who had repeatedly called for "concrete steps" to help correct the chronic bilateral trade gap.

South Korea suffered a trade deficit of $8.8 billion with Japan last year, up by about $2 billion from the previous year. The deficit accounted for more than 90 percent of Seoul's total foreign trade shortfall of $9.6 billion.

Given the mounting concern in Korea over the trade deficit, the trade issue may become a major destabilizing factor in future Seoul-Tokyo relations, analysts said.

No has a moratorium of slightly over five months on that matter, as the two countries have set the end of June as the deadline for working out the economic action plan.

He may be pushed into significant political difficulties, depending on the final shape of the action program, the analysts said.

Key policy-makers of the government, meantime, said they are neither optimistic nor pessimistic about prospects of the action plan.

"That the two countries have agreed on the action plan itself should be seen as an evidence that the summit talks produced concrete results," one Chongwadae official said.

"We have had quite a hard time talking with the Japanese side over the economic and trade issues," the official said.

He noted that the Japanese negotiators had first even declined to mention the question of opening Japanese construction markets to Korean firms.

Seoul could not be harsh enough in pressuring Japan over the trade issue because of the need for Japan's help in political and diplomatic fields, analysts said.

They cited, as an example, Seoul's request for Japan to keep pressuring North Korea to give up its suspected ambition to develop nuclear arms.

Aside from the trade issue, No and Miyazawa appeared to have boosted their understanding of bilateral and international issues.

They, in particular, concurred that Japan should not establish diplomatic ties with North Korea till the North fully opens its nuclear facilities to international inspections.

"The two leaders exchanged their views on bilateral and international issues very frankly, which is also very important," the Chongwadae official said.

Through his three-day official visit to Seoul, Miyazawa tried hard to ease concerns over Japan's move to send troops for U.N. peacekeeping operations.

At his talks with No Thursday, the Japanese prime minister was quoted as saying that the Japanese participation in the operations would be made in such a manner not to cause concern to South Korea.

At yesterday's joint news conference with No, he also stressed that Japan will never seek to become a military power.

On the matter, No told Miyazawa that Japan should increase its role in the international arena mainly through economic and nonmilitary means.

ROK Faulted for 'Clumsy' Approach

SK2101041192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Jan 92 p 8

["News in Review" column by deputy economics editor Pak Chang-sok: "Seoul's Clumsy Approach Fails To Solve Substantive Economic Issues"]

[Text] It is quite interesting to see the front-page pictures for the Korea-Japan summit talks during Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's three-day Seoul visit last week. The camera focused on a smiling President No Tae-u and Premier Miyazawa shaking hands with each other. The picture, showing the unbalanced makeup of both sides' delegations, was enough to lead the people to ridicule the summit. Lined up in the Korean delegation flanking No were ministers of foreign, trade-industry and finance. But not a single Cabinet member was seen in the Japanese line.

Miyazawa reportedly planned to come to Seoul with only a few protocol officers and no Cabinet members. At the "humiliating" request of the Seoul government, Miyazawa is learned to have belatedly called Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata to join his retinue. More laughable was the fact that Finance Minister Hata cut short his trip and returned home one day before Miyazawa's departure.

In short, Korean ministers of foreign affairs, trade-industry, and finance had none of their Japanese counterparts with whom they could discuss such economic issues as the snowballing trade deficit in Korea's disfavor, an issue which has become the bone of contention between the two neighboring countries.

The absence of ministers of foreign affairs and trade in the Japanese delegation was enough to lead the Korean people into thinking that from the outset, Japan had no intention of discussing the knotty problem of the trade imbalance and technology transfer, an issue which Korea has raised stereotypedly for decades but with which it had made little progress. Japanese International Trade-Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe was on a Middle East trip in search of another economic pie when Miyazawa was here on his first overseas trip after becoming the premier.

The insincere attitude Japanese officials have shown to Korea is in sharp contrast with their earnestness shown to the United States during President George Bush's Tokyo trip. The picture of Japanese Trade-Industry Minister Watanabe sitting together with American Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher during Bush's speech at the opening of an outlet of the U.S. toy retailer, Toys "R" Us in a small city still retains its impression for the Korean people.

True, the unbalanced makeup of the delegations has exposed the Korean Government's clumsy diplomacy focusing on cosmetic political advertisements rather than substantial benefits, and the Japanese premeditated artfulness.

More diplomatic inexperience on the Korean side was also exposed when it brought up "past issues" which are politically sensitive but hard to solve at a time. Korean officials took a great miscue by wasting much time in demanding a Japanese apology for the forced prostitution of Korean women during its wartime colonial rule. The atrocities and inhumane behavior perpetrated by the Japanese during World War II are too manifold to enumerate.

Premier Miyazawa expressed an apology and remorse for Japanese past misdeeds including the enslavement of Korean women for forced sex. Korea's mass media played up the apology stories. It is not the first time that the Japanese government has apologized for its past wrongdoings. Apology by Emperor Hirohito, the monarch of the wartime period, made during former president Chon Tu-hwan's Tokyo visit, was in fact the top of the Japanese apologies.

To talk about the past is important. But what is more important is to talk about the present and future.

The foremost pending issue between Korea and Japan is the trade imbalance, standing unevenly in the former's disfavor. Both sides failed to reach an agreement on such substantive issues as trade imbalance and technology transfer. They just agreed to draw up an action plan on improving the trade imbalance and transferring technology by the end of June. The agreement is a mere agreement. It remains to be seen if the agreement will be translated into action. But observers are skeptical of the Japanese will in view of their hitherto nonchalant attitude. Bush went home with a substantive promise from Japan to buy 20,000 more American cars per year along with the additional purchase of autoparts.

All told, last week's Seoul-Tokyo summit can be said to have been a mere occasion to reconfirm the difference of views of both sides on historical and economic issues rather than improving relations.

Korea's diplomatic awkwardness and Japan's easy-going attitude are to blame for the failure to find avenues to the solution of major economic issues.

Editorial Urges Cooperation

SK1801022892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 18 Jan 92 p 6

[Editorial: "The Will To Correct Trade Imbalance"]

[Text] The official visit of new Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa here has been marred by emotion-packed and fierce protests staged by various civic groups. They protest against Japan's lip service in connection with the correcting of its past wrongdoings, including the conscription of Korean "comfort girls" to serve Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Although this is one very critical issue that must be dealt with on the basis of compensation and restoring the honor of the people involved, we must say the immediate concern of the nation should be directed to another major issue, that is to find a way to correct the trade imbalance between the two countries.

A latest report indicates that during the month of January Korea is expecting the worst monthly imbalance ever of an estimated $1.8 billion, mainly due to machinery imports from Japan. There is no doubt that the issue is not only an economic one but has become more fundamentally a political one for the two neighboring nations.

The deficit problem has been the perennial main topic at summit talks of the two nations' leaders and Japan has always agreed to work together to erase the deficit for Korea by means of various cooperative efforts in industry, science and technology. Unfortunately the agreement has proven empty.

Now once again President No Tae-u has urged the Japanese Government to do something and more particularly to effect a firm political solution. He stressed that this is absolutely needed to achieve the prosperity and development of the Asian-Pacific region. What Korea and Japan need at the moment is the promotion of a close and future-oriented partnership.

A stable, peaceful, and prosperous Korean peninsula is the key to the maintenance of peace and prosperity in the region. This is no doubt a keen Japanese interest.

If Japan is to become a new leader of the world in the 21st century, a situation about which Japan seems to have more confidence than ever, it has to demonstrate a renewed and truly cooperative relationship with Korea, and other neighbors as well. We are quite willing to resolve the emotion-ridden issues of Japanese wrongdoings, but this will not happen until such time as Japan shows us a more sincere and honest desire to work together.

'Few Substantive Results' Seen

SK1901011492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 19 Jan 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Miyazawa's Seoul Visit"]

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa returned home yesterday after winding up his three-day visit to Seoul, during which he had extensive contact with Korean officials including his two summit talks with President No Tae-u. While here, Miyazawa on a few occasions offered an apology for past Japanese brutalities against Koreans, including the enlistment of Korean women to service Japanese soldiers sexually during World War II.

The leaders of the two countries promised to make a fresh start for forging a closer partnership between their two countries. Their promise merits appreciation for the good of both sides. Koreans, the victims of that unhappy period—emotionally or otherwise—cannot help watching in the days ahead to see whether the Japanese really feel remorse for their past wrongs and whether they will show it in action, however.

Japan has so far continued to make believe that it has recognized its responsibility for past wrongs and accepted the blame for them. Whenever the occasion arose, the chauvinistic and haughty elements made no bones about thinking and feeling otherwise, however.

The next step will be for the two countries to cooperate more extensively with mutual respect and reciprocity. Much will hinge on how to resolve such issues as the ever-deepening trade imbalance and the transfer of Japanese high technology to Korea, two major issues that hardly went anywhere during Miyazawa's visit.

As an approach to redress the widening trade gap between the two countries, No proposed "concrete steps," which called for, among others, Japanese lowering of tariffs on major Korean imports. But Miyazawa merely offered the "best efforts" and "maximum considerations" in these regards, without giving any concrete response. The two leaders only agreed to work out an "action plan" by June to correct the chronic bilateral trade imbalance and promote technology transfer.

In a nutshell, there was lots of rhetoric but few substantive results. We are interested not so much in rhetoric as in the honesty and sincerity of the Japanese in taking practical measures to open its market wider to Korean goods, many of which are subjected to various tariff barriers. We are especially vexed by the fact that Japan seems particularly tightfisted in its trade and economic relations with Korea. If Japan is really interested in improving ties with Seoul, it should remove or lower its tariff barriers as well as drastically expand its non-tariff reduction schemes.

In the final analysis, a bold reorientation in the thinking and profile of the Japanese nation toward full candor, openness and humanity seems in order to place Korea-Japan relations on solid ground. To this end, Japan's genuine repentance over the past, fully proven in deeds, is very important. It will be the only step toward clearing the way for a truly cooperative Seoul-Tokyo partnership in the unfolding age of a dynamic Asian-Pacific community and will be for the good of both sides.

Dailies' Coverage Compared

SK2001102092

[Editorial report] Seven South Korean newspapers carry editorials on 18 January to assess Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit to the ROK.

CHOSON ILBO, a conservative daily, carries an 800-word editorial on page three entitled "Regret Over the ROK-Japanese Summit Diplomacy." Elaborating on the summit diplomacy between the two countries so far, the editorial asks "why can Japan not take conscientious, frank actions as Germany did after the war," adding: "Prime Minister Miyazawa called for intensifying 'forward-looking ROK-Japanese relations.' The future will only remain dark unless the legacies of the past are liquidated, however. The only way is for Japan to disclose, apologize for, and duly compensate for the crimes by its Health and Welfare Ministry, Home Affairs Ministry, and Police Department." The editorial also asks the ROK to make efforts to "find the truth of history," adding: "Prime Minister Miyazawa repeated what his predecessors said about the trade imbalance and transfer of technology. Still, the resolution of these issues depends on how we try to resolve them. It is more urgent to find our faults and correct them than merely blaming Japan."

HANGUK ILBO, a moderate newspaper, carries an 800-word editorial on page 2 entitled "There Will Be No Friendship Without a New Understanding—What Are the Problems of ROK-Japanese Talks?" The editorial says that the ROK-Japanese agreement to provide an action plan to resolve the trade imbalance and transfer of technology is "mere progress" in resolving these issues. Citing various other pending issues between the ROK and Japan, the editorial says that despite the measures that Japan said it would take, "the trade imbalance will remain unless Japan has a new understanding." The editorial concludes: "Japan must know that the only way to consolidate friendly relations is for the two countries to discuss concrete, practical, and efficient ways to solve issues, instead of merely repeating agreements in principle for diplomatic purposes."

SEOUL SINMUN, a progovernment newspaper, carries an 800-word editorial on page 2 entitled "Reciprocity and Balance in ROK-Japanese Relations." The editorial expresses the hope that the volunteer corps case will "serve as an opportunity for Japan to truly liquidate the legacies of the past."

HANGYORE SINMUN, a left-leaning newspaper, carries a 1,000-word editorial on page 2 entitled "'ROK-Japanese Basic Treaty' Must Be Revised—We Cannot Give Up Our Demand for Japan's Compensation for the Volunteer Corps Case." The editorial says that because of its "passive" handling of the volunteer corps issue, the ROK Government failed to extract Japan's concessions over its compensation in this case. Describing the ROK-Japanese Basic Agreement as the "symbol of crow-eating diplomacy," the editorial says: "As substantial evidence has been found to suggest that Japan forced Koreans to join the volunteer corps, which Japan had denied, and as the Japanese Government has officially apologized for it, we must see ROK-Japanese relations from a new perspective. With this understanding, intergovernmental negotiations must start to 'liquidate the legacies of the past.' Therefore, the 1965 ROK-Japanese Basic Treaty must be revised."

KYONGHYANG SINMUN, a moderate newspaper, carries an 800-word editorial on page three entitled "ROK-Japanese Summit Talks That Ended in Rhetoric." The editorial asks Japan how it can call itself the ROK's "good neighbor and partner," when it refuses to pay compensation for the volunteer corps.

TONG-A ILBO, an independent newspaper, carries an 800-word editorial on page three entitled "What Were the ROK-Japanese Summit Talks?" Describing the summit talks as a "failure," the editorial asks Japan to "present efficient ways to redress the trade imbalance" between the ROK and Japan with the understanding that "Japan will gain from a balanced and reciprocal bilateral trade in the long run."

CHUNGANG ILBO, an independent newspaper, carries a 800-word editorial on page three entitled "Why Did the Top Leaders of the ROK and Japan Meet?" After deploring Japan for failing to resolve many of the pending issues, including the volunteer corps case, the editorial concludes: "It is regrettable that the ROK and Japan, because they have been tied to the past, have not been able to go any further in formulating 'farsighted ROK-Japanese relations' that President No Tae-u sought during his 1990 visit to Japan and 'ROK-Japanese relations in a Asian and global context' that Prime Minister Miyazawa stressed during his current visit to Seoul."

Controversy Over 'Comfort Girls' Issue Continues

Government To Form Task Force

SK2101064992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0615 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government has decided to officially request the Japanese Government to compensate the Korean women who were forced to provide sexual services to Japanese soldiers during World War II.

The decision came Tuesday in a meeting of heads of the planning and management offices of related ministries, who noted that "conspicuously different new things" have been revealed and the situation has changed greatly since Korea and Japan normalized relations in 1965.

Japan forcibly mobilized girls as young as 12 to serve in the "Teishintai," a corps of young women who were used as laborers or sex slaves by the imperial army during the war, and recent revelations meant a great change from the situation in 1965.

The head of the Justice Ministry's Planning and Management Office said he had reviewed all the relevant international laws and established customs and concluded that the Korean Government had the right to demand that Japan compensate the victims of its abuse.

Korea would strongly urge Japan to reveal the truth, compensate the victims and reflect the new findings in its history textbooks, a government spokesman said.

Formal diplomatic negotiations would begin after the drafting of government-level measures to seek compensation from Japan, he said.

Separately from its demands that Japan reveal the truth, the Korean Government will carry out its own investigation based on records and the testimony of former "comfort ladies," he said.

To ensure thoroughness, the government will form a task force of working-level officials from the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign, Home, Finance, Justice, Defense and Education Ministries.

The task force, to be headed by Kim Suk-u, director-general of Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, will hold its first meeting on Thursday to work out ways to collect records and materials, and to form a unit to receive reports from victims.

The planning and management office heads will meet whenever necessary to review the results of the task force's work, and Prime Minister Chong Won-sik will chair a ministerial meeting on the matter soon.

The government will ask Japan to hand over all its records on Teishintai and will send officials to Southeast Asian countries, the United States and the Netherlands to collect materials concerning comfort women preserved in their archives and museums.

It will have local governments and private groups gather reports from former comfort girls and their relatives, and will consider setting up an advisory panel of scholars along with some interested organizations.

Bereaved Families React

SK2101062292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0527 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean victims of World War II reacted sharply Tuesday to Monday's remark by Japan's chief government spokesman, Koichi Kato, on their demand for compensation for Korean "comfort girls" abused by the Japanese military.

Kato said the Japanese Government regarded the "comfort girls" issue as settled when Korea and Japan signed a normalization treaty in 1965.

Kato's remark contradicted a statement by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that Japan should pay compensation for forcing tens of thousands of Korean girls to be sexually abused by Japanese soldiers during the war.

The Association of Bereaved Families of the Pacific War issued a statement declaring that its demands for a Japanese Government apology and compensation for the victims did not come from any desire to settle the question with money.

"Rather, we are trying to reclaim the spirit of our people," it said.

"There will be intense anti-Japanese feeling not only among victims of the war but throughout the nation if the Japanese Government fails to resolve the issues, including the question of compensation, at an early date," the Association warned.

Meanwhile, the council for the comfort girls problems called Miyazawa's remarks during a visit to Seoul last week "hypocritical" and said Japan should compensate the victims since the issue was not discussed during negotiations on the 1965 treaty.

The council said that Japan's "unrepentant and haughty attitude" with regard to the comfort girls question would not be tolerated in the world community.

"We will pursue the issue internationally at such places as the United Nations so that the entire world will condemn Japan for its crime," it said.

Japan Urged To Revise History Books

SK2101071292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0653 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—Education Minister Yun Hyong-sop urged the Japanese Government Tuesday to do its utmost to correct biased or distorted facts on Korea-Japan relations in history textbooks.

Yun made the appeal while expressing regret over a reported Japanese demand that the Korean Government stop whipping up what it called anti-Japanese sentiment among its people, who have been protesting against the sexual abuse of Korean women as "comfort girls" by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

Yun rejected the Japanese demand, saying that the government had in fact refrained from telling all about the misdeeds of the Japanese colonialists in middle and high school textbooks lest pupils of tender and sensitive ages be traumatized by the facts.

"Japan should not distort historical facts for the political expediency of older generations," Yun said. "The two countries should try to provide their young people with edifying and future-oriented education, lest they should suffer the same unfortunate experience that occurred in the past."

Yun said his Ministry planned to revise Korean history textbooks when all the facts were known about the brutal Japanese colonialist rule, during which even 12-year-old children were forced to serve as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers.

He cited a Japanese history textbook as saying that "some 3 million young women had sacrificed themselves by working at factories of Defense Industry as members of teishintai [Comfort Women Corps]" and criticized Japanese officials and educators for not telling the truth about the "comfort girls."

Trade Deficit Growth Rate With Japan Highest

SK1801061992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0447 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea's trade deficit with Japan outgrew those of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand with the Asian economic giant in 1990 and 1991, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Saturday.

Korea's trade shortfall with Japan was 6.36 billion U.S. dollars in January-October 1991, up 78.3 percent from 3.56 billion dollars for all of 1989.

Taiwan recorded a deficit of 7.02 billion dollars in trade with Japan in the same period, an increase of 9.1 percent from 1989, the ministry said. The comparable growth rates were 14.3 percent for Thailand, 16 percent for Singapore and 24.1 percent for Hong Kong.

Korea's trade deficit was 5.75 billion dollars in 1990, up 61.2 percent from 1989, and rose 10.6 percent in January-October last year.

Taiwan's grew 7.6 percent to 6.93 billion dollars in 1990, and 1.3 percent in the first 10 months of last year, according to the ministry.

Singapore's deficit with Japan expanded 13.5 percent in 1990 and 1.3 percent in January-October last year.

Hong Kong recorded a deficit of 10.89 billion dollars, up 17.1 percent from 1989, and its 10-month deficit last year was up 5.9 percent from the whole of 1990.

Trade Ministry To Allow Japanese Trading Firms

SK1701015892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—The government plans to allow operation of Japanese General Trading Companies (GTC) in Korea soon, but is likely to meet with protests from Korean GTC's.

Chong Hae-chu, director-general of the Trade and Industry Ministry's Trade Affairs Bureau, said Friday that the government would allow Japanese GTC's to do business in Korea on a "phased and limited" basis.

"It is difficult to allow the Japanese firms to engage in all fields of business when the objections of domestic firms and the increase of Korea's trade deficit with Japan are taken into account. The government is considering limiting Japanese GTC's to exports to Japan only," he said.

"As the Japanese GTC's are well aware of their country's distribution structure, their participation in exports to Japan will help ease the bilateral trade imbalance."

Ministry sources said the government's plan was conveyed to Akira Takashima, Chong's Japanese counterpart at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Thursday afternoon. Takashima is in Seoul accompanying Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Business sources said the government was moving to issue trading permits to Japanese GTC's in the second half of the year at the earliest.

They said Korean GTC's would be reduced to agents of Japanese GTC's once the Japanese firms, with their financial power and worldwide information networks, were allowed to do export business here.

They said domestic GTC's, saddled with interest rates of 12 percent, could not compete with their Japanese counterparts, which can borrow money at 7 percent to 8 percent interest.

If Japanese financing went to Korean small- and medium-sized firms, the business community would be unable to escape Japanese capital control, they said.

An official at Daewoo Corp. said that whether to allow the Japanese GTC's in, not the scope of their entry, was the crucial question.

"Once they are allowed to do business here, it will be just a matter of time for them to expand the extent of their business with all their potent financial power and lobbying ability," he warned.

A Samsung Co. spokesman said: "It is impossible to keep the door closed permanently, but opening should be put off as long as possible so domestic general trading companies become more or less competitive."

Business sources said Japanese GTC's would not only eat away at Korean exports but have a grave impact on Korean importers. Those Japanese GTC's currently in Korea arrange imports worth over 10 billion U.S. dollars a year, they noted.

Machinery Trade With Japan Suffers Deficit

SK1701014692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea suffered a 7 billion-U.S.-dollar deficit in machinery trade with Japan last year, up 22.8 percent from a year earlier, accounting for 79.5 percent of the country's total red ink, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Friday.

Korea's machinery exports to Japan grew 100 million dollars to 600 million dollars in 1991 while imports of Japanese machinery products other than electric and electronic goods reached 7.6 billion dollars, up 1.4 billion dollars from 1990.

The yawning imbalance was due to a jump in plant and equipment imports boosted by increased investment in manufacturing as well as continued construction and expansion of petrochemical and automobile factories, the ministry said.

A construction boom and expansion of intrastructure played a role in widening the deficit as well, according to the ministry.

The Korea Society for the Advancement of Machine Industry pointed out that 50 percent of plant and equipment currently comes from Japan and that technology introduction is also heavily concentrated on it.

It forecast that Korea's trade deficit with Japan in machinery would reach 10 billion dollars this year, based on the fact that Korea is far behind Japan in parts and materials industries.

Concern Raised Over Japan's Plutonium Purchases

SK1701010592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Jan 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Japan's Plutonium Plan"]

[Text] Japan's reported plan to procure a large amount of plutonium from abroad over the next two decades as source of energy deserves concern for all who are anxious to see the post-Cold War era free from nuclear proliferation. It is against such a backdrop that the world has become alert to North Korea's nuclear arms development, and South Korea has recently signed an accord with the North to make the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free. In fact, the plan to procure 100 tons of plutonium was raised this week by a nuclear expert at a U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing as a possible threat to Northeast Asia.

The projected plutonium purchase, notwithstanding Tokyo's insistence it would be used only for peaceful purposes, is apt to face a global alarm. The world is wary of nuclear proliferation despite the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

The Japanese procurement of plutonium could also arouse another concern that its shipments from Europe to Japan could be vulnerable to high seas terrorism. Japan has longstanding contracts with France and Britain to process some of the needed amount. Even a small amount, if seized by such terrorists, could be used to make nuclear bombs.

Japan wants it to be known that it has no nuclear weapons program. It says it needs plutonium simply to achieve energy independence. But others tend to remain wary of Japanese use of plutonium. Indeed, Japan's move to send troops abroad under the cloak of international peacekeeping operations is prone to raise skepticism that Japan, having grown into an economic power, may be tempted to possess military clout to increase its influence in world politics. It is especially so for those who experienced Japanese colonial militarism.

In their eyes, Japan may use plutonium to make nuclear weapons in the future for political reasons and state security. A nuclear-armed Japan would certainly destabilize the region. And the ongoing efforts to make the peninsula nuclear-free would turn out to be less than wise. The world, especially Japan's neighbors, will have to see to it that Tokyo keeps its pledge not to go nuclear. Doing so will certainly benefit Japan.

Reports on Ruling DLP Breakdown, Elections

No Tae-u Urges 'Fresh' Candidates

SK1801113392 Seoul YONHAP in English 1045 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u stressed Saturday that his ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] should select "able and fresh" figures, regardless of their factional traits, as candidates for the general elections.

In a weekly tete-a-tete with Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, No asked that Kim make recommendations for nomination in close consultation with Co-Chairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun.

The president also asked that the party step up public relations activities to make sure that the people realize the proposed postponement of the mayoral and gubernatorial elections is not designed for advancing the ruling party's interests and tactics but for saving the national economy and consolidating democracy on the basis of stability.

No said in a press conference last week that he would postpone the two elections, scheduled for the first half of this year, for a year or two, reasoning that holding of four elections in one year was feared to destabilize the national economy.

The chief executive emphasized that stabilization of wages and industrial peace should be attained by all means this year.

He said that the government will improve devices to settle stable labor-management relations, adding that his government was determined to sternly deal with illegal and unjust labor disputes.

Kim said that the DLP would form a nomination screening committee next Saturday and finalize selection of candidates by Jan. 31.

Candidates Tallied

SK2101123892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1200 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—A total of 688 aspirants have applied for the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP)'s nomination in the coming general elections in all 237 constituencies, representing an average competitive rate of 2.9 to one, according to a tally compiled after the deadline for DLP's candidacy application Tuesday afternoon.

The average competitive rate, however, is expected to be somewhere around three to one if an undisclosed number of secret applications is taken into account, observers said.

The competitive rate is well compared with the Democratic Justice Party's seven to one at the time of the 13th elections and even fell short of meeting earlier predictions which envisaged five to one.

The highest ratio was marked in Keochang, South Kyongsang Province, where 11 aspirants applied for a berth vacanted by the late Minister for Political Affairs Kim Tong-yong. The metropolitan area, Chungchong and North Kyongsang Provinces showed an average 3.4 to one. In a stark contrast, solo race was registered in more than 70 constituencies, including more than 10 in the Kwangju and Cholla Provinces.

Some 26 aspirants, including Ho Hwa-pyong of Pohang and former Defense Security Commander Koh Myong-sung, were known to have filed applications in behind-the-curtain deals.

The ruling party is to inaugurate a candidate screening committee Saturday and complete selection of candidates by Jan. 31. The leadership of the party is known to have completed screening for around 80 percent of the candidacy openings in a series of recent inter-faction consultations.

The party will convene a rally of party nominees on Feb. 7 and start a series of regional party meetings for reshaping its district chapters in mid-February.

Legislators Announce Departure

SK2001095892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0945 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—A group of former lawmakers of the now-defunct Democratic Justice Party (DJP) will announce Tuesday their departure from the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) to join the Unification National Party or run as independents in the coming general elections, an informed source said Monday.

They include Chong Nam, Kim Chung-nam, Yi Yong-taek and Chong Hui-tong and most were members of the defunct DJP, which merged with two opposition parties in 1990 into the DLP.

They have called a joint news conference for Tuesday to announce their secession from the DLP, the source said. Their departure will be followed by former chairmen of some district chapters of the DJP, he said.

Kwon Chung-tal, a former DJP secretary general, and Yu Yong, a former DJP chapter head, are expected to make similar announcements in a few days, the source said.

"I think other DLP members belonging to the DJP faction will abandon the party," Chong nam said, adding that they did not have any plan to initiate a new party.

Kim Tong-kil, Pak Chan-chong To Merge Parties

'Scuffle' Erupts Prior to Briefing

SK2101033792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Jan 92 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Scuffle"]

[Text] There was a scuffle between followers of former prof. Kim Tong-kil and Rep. Pak Chan-chong during a joint conference for the founding of the "Saehan Party." Both sides exchanged insults and physical blows in an apparent struggle over who will lead the new party.

The incident began when Kim's followers tried to put up a placard reading "Dr. Kim Tong-kil's Press Conference for the Founding of a New Party."

Rep. Pak's followers attempted to remove the placard, saying the press conference was not for Kim alone but a joint one.

They exchanged insults for about 15 minutes right up until the moment Kim and Pak entered the press conference site at the Daehan Life Insurance building in Yoido.

Kim said he was very sorry that such a shameful scene occured, promising that the party will be free of factional strife.

Chong Speaks on Merger

SK2101045792 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The tentative Reunification National Party is now seeking to merge with the tentative Saehan Party led by Prof. Kim Tong-kil before the 14th National Assembly elections.

In a get-together meeting with reporters held this morning at his party headquarters, Chairman Chong Chu-yong said that although he has not formally discussed merging with the tentative Saehan Party, he would somehow do so with Prof. Kim Tong-kil in the future.

He said that the two parties are of the same opinion that integration of their parties will have to be realized when the people want it, thereby hinting at a merger before the general elections.

Concerning this, the teams from the two sides conducted informal contacts recently but are reported to have failed in making specific progress.

In the meantime, the Committee of the Pacific Age led by Prof. Kim Tong-kil announced that it has decided to hold a meeting of promoters of the tentative Saehan Party on 30 January, denying the possibility of merging with the other party before the general elections.

The Political Reform Consultative Council led by lawmaker Pak Chan-chong reportedly will not participate in the merger of the tentative Reunification National Party and the tentative Saehan Party, but will continue its independent activities.

Kim Discusses Party, Security Issues

SK2101030792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Former professor Kim Tong-kil, who is forming a political party with Rep. Pak Chan-chong, yesterday maintained that the 600,000-strong South Korean military should be slashed to 400,000-450,000 in the most drastic troop cut idea ever presented publicly in the South.

He also insisted on reducing the time of service for conscripted soldiers from the present 30 months to 12-18 months, a proposal which could attract young males to the party.

In a press conference he called to announce his efforts to organize the party, he called for the establishment of South Korea's own security system, independent from the United States' global and Northeast Asia strategy.

"Our country's military strength constitutes a part of U.S. strategy. We now have to work out our own strategy as a sovereign state in a new world order," said Kim, formerly an American history professor at Yonsei University.

"We have to do away with the old framework of South-North confrontation rooted in the Korean war and pursue a collective security system commensurate with the coming of the Pacific Age," he went on.

Kim and Pak declared that they would collaborate to form a party, tentatively named the Saehan Party, to be led by Kim. But both made it clear that they would maintain their separate groups of followers even after Saehan is formally inaugurated.

Terming the power struggle between opposition leader Kim Tae-chung and ruling party executive chairman Kim Yong-sam as "internal strife among established politicians," Kim Tong-kil said that his party would oppose the two Kims whose era he said should have ended with the 1987 presidential election.

The two Kims' split of the opposition forces is widely cited as the major reason for government party candidate No Tae-u's victory.

"I feel it is an insult to the people that the two Kims still enjoy leading political status.... It is very regretful that they use the people's hard-earned tax money in the name of political funds for their parties and it is unpardonable that they sell parliamentary nominations to fatten their purses."

As a facetious critic of social trends, mimicked by a popular television comedian, Kim Tong-kil boastfully declared that the "existing political system would collapse in the next Assembly in which we will win at least 100 seats and Chong Chu-yong's Unification National Party 20 seats."

The Saehan Party, largely based on the popularity of Kim and Pak, lacks funds and speculation has grown that it might seek a merger with Chong Chu-yong's Unification National Party, which has no shortage of funds but is in need of name-recognition figures, sometime after the spring parliamentary polls.

Kim Tae-chung Seeks To Overturn Election Delay

SK1801064992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0619 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 18 (YONHAP)—Opposition Leader Kim Tae-chung, arguing that democracy cannot prevail in South Korea without local autonomy, declared Saturday that his Democratic Party would make an all-out effort to overturn the president's cancellation of elections for mayors and provincial governors.

"We cannot expect democracy or fair elections without local autonomy. We cannot expect the civilian, democratic government that the people so ardently yearn to see," he told a breakfast meeting at a downtown hotel in Seoul.

"Now that President No Tae-u has suddenly announced his decision not to conduct the elections for chiefs of local administrations, which is the core of democracy, we are faced with a grave challenge to fair parliamentary and presidential elections," the co-leader of the main opposition party said.

He said his party would struggle for the local elections to be held as planned. Mayoral and gubernatorial elections are required by law in the first half of the year, but No announced their indefinite postponement in his New Year press conference Jan. 10 for reasons of economic difficulty.

The government should overcome the current economic crisis by stabilizing prices and strengthening the competitiveness of local products through democratic and strong management of the national economy, Kim said.

To stabilize prices, he said, the state budget should be better managed, transactions of financial assets should be made in real names, laws on land-related taxes should be rewritten, and the agricultural, fisheries and livestock distribution network linking cities and rural communities should be strengthened.

Turning to inter-Korean relations, Kim warned the government not to use an inter-Korean summit for political advantage.

"There should be no summit until after the parliamentary elections so that it can proceed sincerely.... President No should remember that his tenure is up in a year. He should avoid making decisions that may become a burden on the next president, or which he may find it difficult to put into practice," he said.

Reports Continue on Elections, Parties

'Korea Labor Party' Formed

SK2001030092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0209 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—The task of forming another political group, tentatively dubbed the Korea

Labor Party, officially began Sunday without three key promoters, who were under arrest on charges of violating the National Security Law.

About 3,000 people gathered at the Korea exhibit center and voted to form a preparatory committee for the Korea Labor Party.

Chu Tae-hwan, arrested chairman of the promoters' committee, was named chairman of the preparatory committee in absentia.

The promoters say they plan to formally inaugurate the party by the middle of February and run candidates in the general elections in March in some 30 districts, chiefly constituencies with large concentrations of industry.

A statement issued in the name of the Korea Labor Party said it would work to eliminate the "military dictatorship," to achieve self-reliance of the Korean people and accomplish reunification.

It demanded the release of the three key promoters and denied any link between the Korea Labor Party and the Korea Socialist Labor Party.

Police have charged Chu, 37, and the two others with promoting an anti-state organization, which is specifically named as the "Korea Socialist Labor Party."

They are charged with calling for creation of a communist state, organizing underground networks in 11 cities across the country, including Seoul, Ulsan, and Kumi, and recruiting more than 30 people to their cause.

Meanwhile, dissidents and activist students are busy working to defeat the ruling Democratic Liberal Party in as many constituencies as possible in the general elections. Chonkuk Yonhap (the National Alliance for Democracy and National Unification) plans to put up its own candidates to form a political base.

The alliance, Korea's largest dissident organization, has proposed to opposition parties forming "the national conference for the establishment of a democratic government" to run a unified campaign against the government camp.

The National Council of Student Representatives has decided it will carry out "political struggles" to get the opposition to put up unified candidates in the elections.

'Watchdog' Group Formed

SK2001083692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0619 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 20 (YONHAP)—Konsunhyop, a civic election watchdog body, announced plans Monday to launch a nationwide drive for fair general and presidential elections this year.

A spokesman for the Association for Fair Elections, a coalition of 56 civic and woman's rights groups and religious organizations, told a news conference that Roman Catholic Primate Cardinal Stephen Kim Sohwan, the Rev. Han Kyong-cik and four other religious leaders had been named honorary advisers.

Konsunhyop's 20 advisers would include the Rev. Kang Won-yong and Kim Chun-yop, a former president of Korea University, he said.

The association's primary goals were to receive reports on unfair election activities, guard against government intervention in the elections, raise voter turnout and teach people to refuse bribes and entertainment from candidates, he said.

"People should not sit idly simply because the government and politicians have little will to carry out fair elections," the Konsunhyop spokesman said, urging voters to make efforts to eliminate money from elections and create a fair election mood.

He called on the government to stay out of the elections and candidates to spend only what the law allows and to make public their spendings.

Yi Sae-chung, a former chairman of the Seoul Bar Association, and eight others were elected co-chairmen. Kang Mun-kyu, YMCA secretary-general, Buddhist monk Song Wol-chu and former Prime Minister Yi Han-pin were named permanent co-chairmen.

Son Pong-ho, a professor at Seoul National University, will be chairman of the executive committee, and Soh Kyong-sok, secretary-general of the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice, was elected vice secretary-general.

Police Investigate Violations

SK2101062092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 21 (YONHAP)—The National Police Administration is investigating about 30 people on suspicion of campaigning for election to the National Assembly before it is allowed by law.

The suspects, who include incumbent lawmakers from ruling and opposition parties, are suspected of distributing leaflets, money and favors as part of election efforts, a police spokesman said.

He refused to name the assemblymen under investigation.

The Police Administration has ordered city and provincial police to crack down hard on illegal electioneering over the lunar new year's holidays, a season of gift-giving in Korea, regardless of a suspect's party affiliation or rank.

Burma

Saw Maung Returns to Rangoon After Tour

BK1801144492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], and his wife, Daw Aye Yi, accompanied by Major General Kyaw Min, chairman of Sagaing Division Law and Order Restoration Council and commander of the Northwest Command, left Kawlin in helicopters at 1330 on 17 January and arrived at Monywa airport at 1445. [passage omitted] Sr. Gen. Saw Maung and his entourage spent the night at the guesthouse in Monywa.

Sr. Gen. Saw Maung, his wife, Daw Aye Yi, and entourage, accompanied by Northwest Commander Maj. Gen. Kyaw Min and his wife, left the guesthouse at 0810 today to visit Thanbuddhae Katkyaw Pagoda in Monywa. [passage omitted]

At 1330 today Sr. Gen. Saw Maung, his wife, and entourage left Monywa in military helicopters and arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] at 1500. At the Yangon Airport, Sr. Gen. Saw Maung, his wife, and entourage were welcomed by members of the SLORC led by General Than Shwe, deputy chairman of the SLORC, cabinet members, and senior military officials.

NLD Executive Member's Resignation Reported

BK2101080092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Press Release No. 3/92 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic Elections of the Union of Myanmar, dated 20 January 1992]

[Text] The commission has put on record the following submissions from some registered political parties and persons concerned:

1. U Zaw Gauk has been allowed to resign as general secretary and ordinary member of the Shan State Kachin Democratic Party.

2. U Oo Byit Tu has informed that he has resigned as chairman and ordinary member of the Kachin State National Congress for Democracy, KSNCD, and U Lakhum Zau Khum has informed that he has resigned as central executive committee member of the KSNCD.

3. U Thet Aung has been allowed to resign as chairman and member of the Anti-Communist, Anti-Socialist, Anti-Totalitarian Free Democracy League and vice chairman-2 U Maung Maung Lay is elected as chairman and treasurer. U Nay Win Aung is concurrently appointed as vice chairman-2.

4. U Nyunt Wai has informed that he has resigned as central executive committee member of the National League for Democracy [NLD].

Teachers To Attend SLORC 'Refresher' Course

BK2001111592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpts] A coordination meeting to draw the curriculum and program for training teachers from universities and colleges, which will be held at the Central Institute of Public Services [CIPS] in Phaunggyi under the auspices of the Myanmar [Burma] Education Committee, was held at 0915 this morning at the higher education department's central university council meeting hall. Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee, attended the meeting and delivered an address. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt first said on two occasions—24 December 1991 and 5 January 1992, he met with heads of public service departments and university and college teachers from the Yangon [Rangoon] area and had already explained matters relating to the closure of all universities and colleges on 12 December 1991. He then said the reason for meeting the rectors of all the universities and colleges was to coordinate and draw a complete preparatory plan for the speedy reopening of the universities and for ensuring the peaceful pursuit of education. He next said that at the previous coordination meeting, the circumstances regarding the closure of the universities were explained, and believed the matter was already known to the teachers and reiterated some necessary points.

Continuing, Khin Nyunt explained the state government does not want the universities, colleges, and institutes to be closed and Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the SLORC, also felt very unhappy about the closure. He next said Sr. Gen. Saw Maung asked him whether the closure was truly the desire of the teachers and whether it was decided after careful consideration. Khin Nyunt then said, he replied to Sr. Gen. Saw Maung that the universities were closed after holding thorough discussions with the teachers who opted for a closure as the best solution. He stated that Sr. Gen. Saw Maung does not want the universities to be closed, and that is why all must cooperate for a speedy reopening. Khin Nyunt also said he believes students will receive more guarantees for the peaceful pursuit of education in the long term only if work is done according to a good plan.

He then said a small group of unscrupulous students and outside people who want political gain will join forces with some persons, who wanted to interfere in our internal affairs through foreign broadcasting services, and will try to create unrest and the universities will have to close again, reopen the universities, create unrest, and close again; we could not let that happen. He said that is why if the universities reopen with complete preparatory plans then only students who wish to pursue their studies in a peaceful manner in the long term will get the full guarantee.

Next, Khin Nyunt said he believes the plan for reopening the universities and for the lifelong peaceful pursuit of education will be successful if responsible teachers accept the fact that they play a major role and act accordingly. [passage omitted] He explained that discussions on the reopening of universities and the peaceful pursuit of education were made at the meeting on 5 January 1992 and was pleased with the discussions and responses by the teachers and also said preparatory programs based on those discussions are being made.

He later explained in order to be more fully prepared a special refresher training course is planned for university and college teachers at the CIPS and administration matters will dominate the training program. [passage omitted] Continuing, Khin Nyunt said administration, control, discipline, leadership and mentality will be the main topics in the administrative course and patriotism, history of the struggle for independence, the acceptance of unity spirit, public service rules and regulations, and law courses will also be included. [passage omitted]

Karen Rebels Shell Bilin; Five Injured

BK1701145292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgents have been disrupting the peace and tranquility by firing into towns and villages causing death and injury to innocent people. The terrorist insurgents fired 60 mm mortar shells from about one mile east of Bilin [in Mon State] at 2300 yesterday. As a result of the shelling three innocent people and two young children were injured.

A group of KNU terrorist insurgents fired 13 60-mm mortar shells into Bilin town from 2250 to 2325 yesterday. [passage omitted]

The military columns are in hot pursuit of the terrorist insurgents.

Karen Insurgents Fire Mortars, Rockets on Thaton

BK1801142492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] The KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgents have been firing mortar shells and rockets at towns and villages with the brutal and vicious intention of causing injury and death to innocent civilians living peacefully there. At 0005 midnight last night, a KNU terrorist insurgent unit fired 60-mm mortar shells into the town of Thaton, wounding four innocent civilians.

The KNU terrorist insurgent unit fired eight such mortar shells into Thaton from an area west of the town from 0005 to 0010 last night. Six of the shells fell and exploded in the town while two landed outside. Thaton residents—Ma Aye Aye, age 13; Maung Thaung Min, 13; Ko Myat Soe, 41; and Ko Than Sein, 70; were injured by the shrapnel.

As soon as the attack started, a local military unit pursued the terrorist insurgents. They clashed for five minutes at 0120 this morning. The KNU insurgents fled towards the west and are being pursued.

Surrenders of 14 'Insurgents' 1-21 Dec Reported

BK2101092592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] People belonging to various insurgent organizations who have come to realize their wrongdoing have been giving up their armed struggle and surrendering, with their arms and ammunition, at different army camps. Accordingly, the following surrenders took place from 1 to 21 December 1991:

Southeast Military Command: Private Myint Win of the ABSDF's [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] 203d Battalion surrendered at Mergui Garrison. Pvt. Ma Nu Nu Lwin of the 201st Battalion surrendered at Tavoy Garrison. Pvt. Ma Thandar Win, alias Lin Su Htoo, of the 204th Battalion gave herself up at Kawthaung Township Law and Order Restoration Council [LORC] office. Pvt. Myat Khaing of the KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgent organization surrendered at Mergui Garrison. Sergeant Aung Tun Thein of the ALP [Arakan Liberation Party] terrorist insurgent group surrendered himself and three AK-47 assault rifles at Mergui Garrison. Pvt. Khin Zaw surrendered with one AK-47 assault rifle at the Ye Township LORC office. Pvt. Aung Myint of the NMSP [New Mon State Party] terrorist insurgent organization surrendered with one AK-47 assault rifle at the Ye Township LORC office.

Western Military Command: Pvt. Hla Thaung of the ALP surrendered at Mergui Garrison.

Northern Military Command: Pvt. Saw Phaw Yin of the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] terrorist insurgents' 3d Battalion surrendered himself and one M-21 automatic rifle at Sikhangyi outpost. Corporal Lanzam Haugaung gave himself up at Myitkyina Garrison. Pvt. Wa Bauk surrendered with one M-21 automatic rifle at the Hoilau outpost. Pvts. Kunja and Lahtang from the Randaung camp surrendered at the Washaung outpost.

Altogether, 14 terrorist insurgents surrendered between 1 and 21 December. These people who have come back to the legal fold after realizing the truth and giving up the armed struggle were warmly received by the responsible officials of the camps concerned.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

SRV Premier Arrives for 4-Day Official Visit

BK2001054992 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0407 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 20 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet arrived here

Monday for a four-day official visit to step up bilateral cooperation between Malaysia and his country.

He was met on arrival at the Kuala Lumpur international airport at Subang by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

His 28-member delegation includes Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Minister for Construction Ngo Xuan Loc and Chairman of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment Dau Ngoc Xuan.

Vo, who is accompanied by his wife Phan Luong Cam, is here at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed.

He has visited Malaysia early last year in his capacity as deputy prime minister.

After the official welcoming ceremony at Parliament Square, Vo is scheduled for an audience with the Yang Di-pertuan Agong (King) Sultan Azlan Shah. He would later call on Dr. Mahathir.

While here, Vo would also visit, among others, the Finance Ministry, Public Bank Headquarters and the Proton car plant. He will also hold talks with Malaysian corporate leaders.

Mahathir-Vo Van Kiet Talks Cited

BK2001142692 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Vietnam welcomes Malaysia's proposal for the East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC, as the initiative to enhance stability and peace in the region.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Badawi said Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressed this at the meeting with Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in Kuala Lumpur today.

Mr. Kiet supported the proposal which he believed could have stepped up development in this region.

Datuk Abdullah was speaking to reporters after the meeting between the two prime ministers which was followed by discussions at official level. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir and Mr. Kiet led their countries' delegations.

Present at the meeting were Datuk Abdullah, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, Transport Minister Datuk Sri Ling Liong Sik, and Agriculture Minister Datuk Sri Sanusi Junid.

Datuk Abdullah said Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir agreed to support Vietnamese wishes to attend future ASEAN meetings as an observer. The Malaysian prime minister welcomed Vietnam's readiness to sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir will bring up the issue at the ASEAN summit in Singapore which will begin on 27th of this month. Datuk Abdullah said although Vietnam had agreed to attend ASEAN meetings as an observer, Malaysia hoped that Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia would become members of ASEAN. This would help enhance the stability in the region.

In today's discussions both countries agreed to resolve the Vietnamese refugee issue as soon as possible through talks at official level. However, no dateline has fixed on the matter. Abdullah said today's talks also touched on economic and development cooperation and Malaysia agreed in principle to help Vietnam in technical and manpower training. He pointed out that the value trade between the two countries had increased from 43.5 million ringgit in 1987 to 146.3 million ringgit in September last year in Vietnam's favor. He added that an investment guarantee agreement between the two countries would be signed tomorrow as a move to upgrade trade and investment, and Datuk Abdullah said Vietnam also agreed to consider Malalysia's proposal to have a bilateral payment agreement between the two countries.

Today's discussions also touched on cooperation in the field of agriculture, especially in rubber and oil palm cultivation, mining, and air, and sea transport.

SRV To Prevent Illegal Departures

BK2101110692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0938 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Vietnam has agreed to take immediate steps to prevent its people from leaving the country illegally, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Monday.

He said Vietnam agreed to do this following a request from Malaysia, which still had nearly 12,500 Vietnamese refugees.

Speaking to reporters after a two-hour meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Manh Cam, here, he said Malaysia was making efforts to send back the remaining refugees to Vietnam.

He said the Vietnamese boat people were still coming to this country in small groups despite economic improvement in their country.

Abdullah said Malaysia would not force the Vietnamese refugees to return home unless the situation worsened.

"They will be sent home on voluntary basis... with the improvement of the economy in Vietnam, there is a possibility that many more will volunteer to go home," he added.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society said early last month that between 30 and 40 Vietnamese had left for home each month since the Pulau Bidong camp was closed in October last year.

Abdullah said the government would assist Vietnam in redeveloping its economy so that more of its people who were here would return home.

He said the refugees could not be resettled in third countries as these countries were reluctant to accept them.

On political refugees, he said they would be allowed to remain here until the political situation in Vietnam allowed them to return. However, their number was small.

On the Spratlys issue, Abdullah said Malaysia and Vietnam had agreed to resolve the matter through diplomatic channel.

The island in the South China Sea is also claimed by China, the Philippines, and Taiwan.

Defense Minister Rules Out Regional Military Pact

BK1901064992 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Malaysia is firm in its stand that there is no need for ASEAN to have a military pact to further strengthen the security of the region. Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Razak says Malaysia still considers the best way to do this is through bilateral cooperation among ASEAN countries. He was commenting on a newspaper quoting the U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Richard Solomon, as saying the U.S. presence in Southeast Asia is vital to defend the region's stability and to prevent incidents like that experienced in Kuwait last year.

Mr. Solomon was reported to have said that U.S. involvement was necessary because even though the Southeast Asian countries were [words indistinct] to consolidate the security of the region, an effective understanding on this matter had not been achieved. Datuk Sri Najib said a nonformal forum existed among the ASEAN nations to deliberate on regional security. He pointed out that ASEAN does not require a military pact like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, which was set up in Europe because of threats from enemies. There is no need to have such a perception with ASEAN countries. It is not necessary for ASEAN to imitate military pact found in Europe. Malaysia is optimistic with the present security situation in Southeast Asia in the short and medium term and there is no reason for alarm or concern.

Minister Views Indonesian Stance on EAEC

BK2001131092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 18 Jan 92 p 7

[Text] Kuala Kangsar, Fri—International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz has refuted reports that Indonesia will suggest adjustments to the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC).

She had telephoned Indonesian Trade Minister Dr. Arifin Siregar yesterday to clarify the report.

"He described the report as untrue and that Indonesia had not made any statement on the matter," she said here yesterday.

The report had quoted Indonesia as saying that it would suggest several adjustments to the EAEC.

Datuk Sri Rafidah said Dr. Arifin told her that Indonesia saw the EAEC in two aspects—economic and political.

"The economic aspects had been dealt with in detail and agreed on in principle by the ASEAN Economic Ministers recently.

"Now the final stages of discussions will be held by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers at their joint meeting in Singapore next Friday," she said.

The Foreign Ministers, she added, would give their final resolutions on the EAEC at that meeting before the proposal was brought at the ASEAN Summit meeting on Monday.

Singapore

Continued U.S. Presence in Asia Sought

BK1601072092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0626 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Singapore, Jan 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—A sharp pull-back of American military forces from Asia could be decided in 1996 or 2004 if the relative economic decline of the United States continued unchecked and domestic opinion turned sour, Singapore Minister of Information and Arts Brig. Gen. George Yeo, said Thursday.

If this occurred, Japan would be forced to rearm, China and Korea would oppose Japan, and a whole chain reaction of destabilisation would be triggered in the region, he said in a keynote address at THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL's 1992 capital markets conference here.

To forestall such an eventuality, a structure of peace and economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region was necessary with the U.S. brought in as an insider even if its economy continued to decline in relative terms, he added.

"It is possible to imagine a Europe without NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) in five to 10 years. It is frightening to conceive of an Asia without the U.S. military presence for the next 20 years," he said.

Gen. Yeo added, however, a complete withdrawal of U.S. forces was not likely because East Asia had become even more important to the U.S. than Europe.

The economies of the U.S. and Japan were inextricably bound together and added up to 40 per cent of the world's gross national product (GNP), while Japan needed the U.S. for its Asian policy and as a counterweight to China, he said.

He added: "The U.S. is more likely to stay than not. In fact, the U.S., Japan, and China are in a triangular relationship.

"The political challenge in the years to come is to create an institutional structure across the Pacific which will hold this strategic triangle in place."

Gen. Yeo said whatever the scenario, it [words indistinct] the common interest of Southeast Asian countries to group together to be in a better position to bargain with the big powers.

He also said that ASEAN's decision to form a free trade area in 15 years was a major milestone in the history of Southeast Asia, while the process of political and economic cooperation in ASEAN was gathering momentum.

He added: "With the end of the long war in Indochina, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos will eventually be brought in and Myanmar [Burma] as well."

"The alternative to a strong ASEAN is a balkanized Southeast Asia and that is neither in the interest of Southeast Asians nor in the interest of the major powers."

Cambodia

Hun Sen Receives U.S. Special Envoy 20 Jan

BK2101055692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] On the morning of 20 January at the office of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, granted an audience to Charles Twining, special representative of the United States to Cambodia.

H.E. Hun Sen praised and highly valued the United States for its contribution to seeking peace for Cambodia.

In his reply, Charles Twining expressed profound thanks to H.E. Hun Sen for granting an audience to him on his diplomatic mission in Cambodia.

Ali Alatas Meets Leaders, Praises Peace Efforts

BK1801074092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas yesterday [17 January] met with a number of Cambodian leaders and praised them for their efforts in implementing a peace accord that he had helped bring to shape.

His Excellency Ali Alatas told His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk: In fact, we are looking forward to seeing the full implementation of the accord. All in all, the accord's execution has however been making headway.

H.E. Alatas indicated that a strong UN peacekeeing force is badly needed in Cambodia as specified in the peace accord—the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] should be deployed in Cambodia as soon as possible.

His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, for his part, said Mr. Yasushi Akashi, who was recently nominated as the UNTAC head, will come to Cambodia on 22 January 1992 on a five-day fact-finding mission.

H.E. Ali Alatas held talks with some members of the Supreme National Council, including Mr. Hun Sen, leader of the former communist Phnom Penh regime, and Mr. Khieu Samphan, leader of the Khmer Rouge.

H.E. Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, was not present in Phnom Penh at that time because he has been receiving medical treatment at a hospital in the Thai city of Bangkok.

As for Prince Norodom Ranariddh—president of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia—he did not meet with H.E. Ali Alatas either as he had not yet returned to Phnom Penh.

Discusses Peace Process With Sihanouk

BK1901022892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] On 17 January, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], received His Excellency [H.E.] Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister and cochairman of the Paris conference, at the Khemarin palace. The prince also hosted a reception in honor of H.E. Ali Alatas.

H.E. Khieu Samphan and a number of other SNC members also attended the talks and the reception. H.E. Indonesian ambassador to the SNC was also present. The head of state prince and SNC chairman informed H.E. Ali Alatas on the Cambodian situation. The prince expressed most profound thanks from the Cambodian people and nation to H.E. President Suharto and H.E. Ali Alatas himself for their efforts to achieve the Paris agreement and continued efforts to get the Paris agreement implemented so that Cambodia regains peace, security, and independence.

On behalf of the entire Cambodian people, the prince also specified that we need quick deployment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC].

H.E. Ali Alatas expressed most profound thanks to the prince and said: I fully agree with the samdech. The prince said: As a comparison, the samdech is given a bicycle without the two wheels, only the bicycle's frame. The SNC wheel is there but the UNTAC wheel is not. This figurative statement is very apt.

The talks and reception took place in a cordial and warm atmosphere.

Meets With Chea Sim

BK1801145592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 17 January at the office of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim—chairman of the CPP, National Assembly, and the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense—received H.E. Ali Alatas, foreign minister of the Republic of Indonesia and cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, who was visiting the country.

On that occasion, H.E. Chea Sim welcomed the visit by H.E. Ali Alatas, who is a pioneer in the search for peace in Cambodia. H.E. Chea Sim pointed out that the first and second rounds of the informal talks in Jakarta had led to the achievement of the Paris peace accord.

Concerning the implementation of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord, H.E. Chea Sim stressed that troop cantonment, reductions in troop strengths, arms reduction, and refugee repatriation should be carried out prior to the coming rainy season. He added that the State of Cambodia side has sincerely executed the Paris peace accord 100 percent and called on all the Cambodian parties to join hands to do likewise.

In his reply, H.E. Ali Alatas said he was happy and satisfied with the welcome and favorable conditions provided for his visit to Cambodia. He reaffirmed that Indonesia, as a friendly country, will dedicate its attention to contributing to the restoration and reconstruction of Cambodia.

Meets With Khieu Samphan

BK1901022592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] On 17 January in Phnom Penh, His Excellency Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], held talks with H.E. Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister and cochairman of the Paris conference.

H.E. Khieu Samphan informed H.E. Ali Alatas about the Paris agreement, which is facing a dangerous situation, and the Cambodian people's request for the quick arrival of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], particularly the rapid stationing of the first batch of UNTAC in Phnom Penh to create a neutral political atmosphere for the SNC to function normally.

H.E. Ali Alatas said the key for implementing the Paris agreement is for UNTAC to arrive quickly in Cambodia. He further said that it is true that the two organizations, SNC and UNTAC, should closely cooperate to implement the agreement; one without the other will not do. He also said that we should strive to preserve the Paris agreement.

H.E. Khieu Samphan expressed profound thanks to H.E. Ali Alatas, who has consistently paid attention to getting the agreement correctly implemented so that the Cambodian people again enjoy peace and independence. H.E. Khieu Samphan asked H.E. Ali Alatas to convey most profound thanks to H.E. President Suharto for his firm assistance and support to the Cambodian people.

Urges Quicker U.N. Deployment

BK1801140092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1348 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] BANGKOK, Jan 18 (AFP)—Deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping and supervisory mission in Cambodia should be accelerated as much as possible, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Saturday.

Alatas, who arrived here from Cambodia earlier in the day, said he hoped the timetable for the arrival of the full U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) mission could be brought forward.

"All sides were unanimous on the urgency and the need for the UNTAC to be deployed as soon as possible," said Alatas, a co-chairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

Under the U.N.-brokered peace agreement, which the four Cambodian factions signed in October, UNTAC and the factions' Supreme National Council (SNC) are responsible for running the country in the run-up to elections, expected sometime next year.

"The need is increasingly felt for the presence of UNTAC as soon as possible in order to overcome the vacuum that exists now where only one of the two major instruments designed by the agreement... is there, which is the SNC," he said.

A U.N. advance mission of a few hundred personnel arrived in Cambodia soon after the October agreement but the scope of its mandate and its capabilities confine it to little more than an observer's role.

The mission's operations could cost between one and two billion dollars and involve 20,000 people, about half of them military personnel, as it enforces a cease-fire and organises general elections.

Alatas said he hoped that by April or May "if not all UNTAC, at least a sizeable contingent (will be) on the ground."

He added that he was hopeful the timetable for the deployment of the UNTAC could be shortened partly because the U.N. Security Council was now aware of the urgency.

"I am encouraged that in New York, this is also fully realized," he said.

The Security Council "is accelerating the process of getting UNTAC deployed. In this context, we are happy that the special representative has been appointed and cleared," Alatas added, referring to the appointment earlier this month of Yasushi Akashi as the U.N. special representative in charge of UNTAC.

Akashi is scheduled to arrive Wednesday in Phnom Penh for a five-day visit.

Stresses Need for Peacekeeping Force

BK1901031592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] At a news conference in Phnom Penh on 17 January, His Excellency [H.E.] Ali alatas, Indonesian foreign minister and cochairman of the Paris international conference, said that it is necessary for the United Nations to urgently dispatch UN peacekeeping force to Cambodia.

H.E. Ali Alatas further said that if the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia delays its arrival in Cambodia, this will affect implementation of the agreement.

News Conference Reviews Visit

BK1901032892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 17 January at the Chamka Mon State Palace, His Excellency [H.E.] Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister and cochairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, held a news conference during his official visit to Cambodia.

H.E. Ali Alatas told the local and foreign media that this is the first time that he visited Cambodia and was received by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC]. He also met and held talks with H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers and member of the SNC; and held talks with SNC members from other Cambodian parties.

Through this visit, he expressed the view that after setting up its headquarters in Phnom Penh, the SNC has started its work and cooperated well with the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] despite some violations of the cease-fire. H.E. Ali Alatas said that these results are due to the physical and mental efforts of HRH Prince Sihanouk to lead the SNC to bring peace and national reconciliation to the Cambodian motherland and people. He further said that the United Nations will strive to make further vigorous contributions to the process to find peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia aimed at ending the war, which has dragged on for over 20 years. The cooperation of UNAMIC and others will bring good results to the general elections in Cambodia.

H.E. Ali Alatas affirmed that the United Nations will be responsible for these tasks. Finally, he answered in detail questions from the local and foreign media.

UN Refugee Chief Views Repatriation Preparations

To Take Longer, Cost More

BK1901124292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 19 Jan 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 18 (AFP)—UN refugee chief Sadako Ogata finished her tour of Cambodia on Sunday with strong doubts that 370,000 refugees can be returned with the time and money allotted.

What was originally supposed to be a six-month, 109 million-dollar operation will probably cost more and take longer than expected, the United Nations [High] Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR) head said at the end of her five-day inspection of border camps and internal reception centers.

When the budget was first drawn up, UNHCR thought 240,000 refugees would be resettled under the plan from camps on the Thai border to farmland carved from the war-ravaged countryside.

Now the number has jumped to 370,000 as more displaced people show up at the border camps and more people there decide to participate after all, said Sylvana Foa, the UNHCR's chief spokeswoman.

About eight percent of the camps' populations have not signed on.

Of the 109 million dollars needed, the UNHCR has raised only 32 million from donor countries, although that figure is enough to begin the initial preparation work, Ogata said.

However, she added, "We cannot repatriate people on credit. The money will have to come."

A budget revision is currently under way at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva, Ogata said.

The first budget shapers counted on a six-month program in which refugees could start farming land allotted to them before the rainy season begins in May.

"Now it seems it will be a longer period. We may have to give food up through the end of next year's harvest," Ogata said.

Food and materials costs are going up as well. Inflation in Cambodia is running at about 200 percent annually.

The UNCHR is also realizing it is not enough to give people farmland and seeds and tell them to work—especially if those people have been sitting idle in refugee camps for 12 years.

"Some of these people have never farmed in their lives," Foa said. "We're going to have to look at agricultural training programs."

The refugees are due to be resettled before UN-run elections here planned tentatively for April 1993, but before that happens, roads have to be built and land has to be cleared of the millions of mines laid during the nearly 13-year civil war.

The UNHCR had a private company, called Halo Trust, conduct a study to determine which areas are most likely to be mined. Teams of mine clearers are due to begin their work by the beginning of February, concentrating first on repatriation routes and then around the reception centers.

But because the extent of the mines is not known—only where the minefields are located—Ogata could not say how long it will take to clear them.

"It all depends on how many they find," she said.

"I am hopeful we can start repatriating some (people) in the March-April period," said Ogata. "Repatriation depends on so many factors that are still unknown."

'Importance' of Repatriation Stressed

BK2001025992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] Sadako Ogata has stressed the importance of reintegration into Cambodian society of 350,000 Cambodian refugees who have spent many years in camps along the border.

This has to be achieved among other pressing problems in the US$107 million operation.

Mrs Ogata, who earlier inspected repatriation preparations in Cambodia and in refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border, said: "Security is uppermost in my mind... banditry, mines and other unforeseen incidents.

"But more importantly, once they return, it is important that they reintegrate and participate in Cambodia's development.

"if we fail in that, they might start coming out again. This is something we can't afford."

Mrs Ogata confirmed repatriation is scheduled for March-April.

"It is vital because of the planting season. If we miss, it will have to be another year."

Theoretically, Cambodia has two planting seasons, the wet season starting from May to mid-August and the dry season from mid-November to March.

The process of repatriation has been planned to take nine months.

"It would be hard to expect that everybody can plant this year and enjoy the harvest," Mrs Ogata said.

The UNHCR had extended its food programme to provide supplies for the Cambodian returnees from 12 to 18 months from their date of repatriation.

"Those who can't plant this year will have food."

She said that four out of the six reception centres in Cambodia were "quite ready," but that not all of the 240,000 hectares of land needed to accommodate the refugees had been identified.

Cambodia is heavily mined after decades of war.

Both the UN Development Programme and UNHCR will send a mission to Cambodian villages on January 29 to help identify the safest land for the refugees.

Preliminary information obtained during a survey by the UNHCR indicates that 170,000 refugees want to resettle in Battambang province.

Mrs Ogata said the province is very rich but it is still uncertain how many people can be accommodated there.

The area is in the middle of sparsely populated areas.

She said she had asked a provincial Red Cross official, who served as a UNHCR operating partner in one of [the] areas, how local people felt at the prospect of new arrivals in their areas.

"The answer was that there would be a very warm welcome because these were Cambodians who had to go away."

However, Mrs Ogata said she had no way of verifying the official's statement.

Asked if the reception centres inside Cambodia could turn into refugee camps like those on the Thai-Cambodian border, Mrs Ogata said the centres will not hold people.

They will stay in the centres only for a few days.

Hun Sen To Cooperate

BK1901083792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 18 January at the Council of Ministers office, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, granted an audience to

Mrs. Sadako Ogata, head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], who has just returned from inspecting transit camps in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey and Battambang Provinces for repatriating refugees.

At the meeting, H.E. Hun Sen expressed satisfaction with the UNHCR's repatriation of Cambodian refugees from these camps along the Cambodian-Thai border. H.E. Hun Sen reaffirmed that pledges of the authorities at the various communes, districts, and provinces and the SOC Government to fully support and cooperate with the UNHCR and other international organizations to successfully implement the planned repatriation. He said he has requested the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to start the de-mining operation as quickly as possible.

On the issue of human rights, H.E. Hun Sen stressed that the SOC Government would strive to avoid separating the local people from the new repatriatees.

For her part, Mrs. Sadako Ogata concurred that refugees should be repatriated before the coming rainy season. The UNHCR commissioner also said that before coming to Cambodia, she had conducted a week-long working visit of various refugee camps along the Cambodian-Thai border and had found that the repatriation has been prepared for. As for the construction of transit camps in the country, she added it was being satisfactorily carried out. Mrs. Ogata pointed out that in the near future, she would send a group of workers to survey the land on which repatriatees would be resettled and to oversee security measures and mine clearing operations as well.

News Conference Views Refugee Situation

BK2101055792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 18 January at the Kambodiana Hotel, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, head of the UNHCR [United Nations Commissioner for Refugees], held a press conference on the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from various camps along the Cambodian-Thai border.

Attending the press conference were many members of the national and international mass media.

In her opening speech, Mrs. Sadako Ogata stressed that her visit to Cambodia was to discuss with His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], and all SNC members, the preparations for the repatriation of the Cambodian refugees.

She added that this repatriation would begin in March or April 1992 and be completed within six to nine months under the direction of the UNHCR, which must spend $109 million and feed them for 12 months after their resettlement.

She also thanked a number of countries for giving funds for the Cambodian refugees, citing particularly the Royal Government of Thailand for sending 700 to 800 troops to join in demining work along the Cambodian-Thai border to create favorable conditions for a safe repatriation of the Cambodian refugees.

The press conference ended after Mrs. Sadako Ogata had answered clearly all questions related to the Cambodian refugees raised by national and international journalists.

Sihanouk Signs Accord With UN Development Program

BK1901012392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Jan 92 p 5

[Text] Cambodian Supreme National Council president Prince Norodom Sihanouk has signed a US$624,921 agreement with the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) and the Mekong Committee to restore 10 hydraulic and irrigation structures in five provinces following recent floods in the Mekong River.

Work is expected to start immediately.

The Mekong Committee is an independent regional organisation, established by the governments of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam in 1957 and will handle the work.

The committee earlier received a grant of $3.4 million from the Swiss government to use for environmental and water pollution studies, including this work.

At the signing ceremony were UNDP resident representative Edouard Wattez and Mekong Committee executive agent Chuck Lankester and chairman of the Cambodian National Mekong Committee Kong Som Ol, who is also vice-premier of Cambodia.

Envoys Issue Communique on Sihanouk's Role

BK2101032692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0212 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Jan 20—The ambassadors and representatives of the permanent five, the ambassador of Indonesia and the head of UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] in Phnom Penh issued Saturday the following press communique:

"This evening His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk graciously received their excellencies the ambassadors and representatives of the permanent members of the Security Council in Phnom Penh, his excellency the ambassador of Indonesia representing the co-chairman of the Paris conference, and the head of UNAMIC, Ambassador Ataul Karim.

Speaking on behalf of their governments and authorities and in their individual names, the ambassadors stressed the importance which they attached to the central role of his royal highness in bringing peace to Cambodia. Only he could have made agreement possible in Paris on 23 October 1991. Only he could now lead the process to a successful conclusion.

The ambassadors recalled that it was only two months since his royal highness had returned to Cambodia. Even before the deployment of UNTAC and the arrival of the special representative, quite remarkable progress had been made for which he deserved the principal credit, namely:

Supreme National Council [SNC]
—the creation of effective SNC machinery on Cambodian soil, covering all relevant areas (in particular, the SNC Secretariat and the National Mining Authority).
—the support which the SNC had attracted, through Prince Sihanouk's efforts, in the form of many high-ranking visitors.

In the military field
—maintenance of the ceasefire throughout Cambodia
—effective and full deployment of UNAMIC countrywide within 6 weeks
—enlargement of UNAMIC's mandate to include demining training and mine clearance.

In the repatriation field
—signature of a tripartite memorandum between the SNC, the Royal Thai Government and UNHCR [United Nations High Commission on Refugees]
—free choice of destination for returnees
—identification and initial construction of six transit centres
—substantial work in identification of land for those repatriated and surveying it for mines
—firm pledges of assistance for emergency repair of the main repatriation corridor 5

In the field of human rights, multi-party democracy and humanitarian work
—release of political prisoners and POWs under the direction of the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], and substantial progress towards:
—the founding of embryo political parties, political clubs and associations
—freedom for Khmers and foreigners to found and circulate newspapers and other publications
—freedom for foreign journalists to work in Cambodia the ambassadors considered this a remarkable record of leadership by any standard.

They paid tribute to Prince Sihanouk for these achievements.

The ambassadors reiterated their intention, and that of their governments, to give their full support to his royal highness in his further efforts to implement the Paris agreements. Prince Sihanouk's strong leadership of the SNC had created a momentum which would now be complemented by the arrival of the UN secretary general's special representative and the subsequent deployment of UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. They looked forward to the further impetus which Mr Akashi's arrival in Cambodia on 22 January would give to the process.

The ambassadors pledged to continue their support for the implementation of the Paris agreements and of the work of his royal highness. This applied not only in Cambodia but also through the action which, with his constant encouragement, they were able to stimulate at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

The ambassadors noted in particular the unique ability of Prince Sihanouk to appeal to the sense of nationhood among the people of Cambodia, and, by his contact with them, to urge them towards [word indistinct] society in which their potential could be fully realised and applied to the future prosperity of all Cambodians. This had been evident wherever he had made public appearances, within Phnom Penh and outside. The ambassadors encouraged him to make further visits outside the capital as soon as possible. They expressed the hope that they might accompany him to demonstrate to the Cambodian people at large the role which he is playing and their support for him and the Paris peace agreements.

During the audience, his royal highness discussed with the ambassadors his ideas for the further work of the SNC. He hoped particularly that the UN secretary general's special representative, Mr Akashi, would be able to attend the SNC's next meeting.

Sihanouk Urges Continuation of Cease-Fire 21 Jan

BK2101105892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1041 GMT 21 Jan 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Excerpt] Kompong Speu, Cambodia, Jan 21 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, visibly upset Tuesday by reports of heavy fighting upcountry, urged everyone to obey the cease-fire on the eve of a visit to Cambodia by the head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission.

"I have noticed that national reconciliation exists only on paper," Prince Sihanouk said at a demonstration of mine clearing techniques at an Army demolition range. "It seems there are serious violations of the cease-fire, and we must all cooperate... to stop it."

"Our peace is not yet 100 percent," he said, urging the U.N. to maintain its presence well after elections scheduled for 1993.

"Together we have a long way to go before seeing Cambodia quite safe," he said. "We need UNAMIC (U.N. Advance Mission in Cambodia) to keep Cambodia safe for democracy."

The Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh government have charged each other with launching attacks in the strategic central province of Kompong Thom.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation head Jean-Jacques Fresard said a team he dispatched to the area tallied 13 dead and 18 seriously wounded in shelling on January 6 and 7—the day Phnom Penh celebrated the ouster of the Khmer Rouge and its installation by Vietnamese troops.

A Khmer Rouge radio report monitored in Bangkok said 25 Phnom Penh soldiers were killed and another 38 wounded.

"This was probably the biggest violation of the cease-fire since it started in May last year," Fresard said.

About 10,000 people fled their homes and were sleeping under their oxcarts along National Route 6, he said.

Diplomats in Phnom Penh said the incident prompted them to call for an expanded role for UNAMIC to enable them to send cease-fire observers to more provinces. Currently UNAMIC officers are deployed in five places, excluding Kompong Thom and Kampot where fighting often is reported.

"We feel if the United Nations were to show their flag there, the shelling would stop," Fresard said. "The places where UNAMIC are deployed are extremely quiet, but the ones where they are not deployed, there's trouble going on."

Khieu Samphan, the nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge, has been pushing for weeks to have UNAMIC personnel deployed to more provinces.

The Khmer Rouge radio broadcast said the fighting "clearly shows that the Vietnamese aggressors do not respect and have never respected the peace treaty. Therefore, the war has not yet ended."

The Khmer Rouge insist that Hanoi soldiers are still fighting alongside Phnom Penh government forces. Vietnam maintains that it completely withdrew its troops in 1989.

Phnom Penh's version of the attack, by the official SPK news agency, said 3,000 people fled their homes ahead of "pillaging and artillery fire by the Khmer Rouge."

The fighting according to Phnom Penh, "calls into doubt the sincerity of Khmer Rouge leaders when they affirm their adherence to the Paris peace accords."

Under the Paris peace accord ending the nearly 13-year civil war, some 10,000 UNTAC personnel are to maintain the peace until elections are held. [passage omitted]

Sihanouk Receives Indonesian Envoy to SNC

BK1801065792 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0442 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 18—Mr. Taufic Sudarbo, chief of the Indonesian mission to the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, presented here on January 15 his credential letters to SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Mr. Sudarbo, former Indonesian ambassador to Morocco, is the 20th chief of diplomatic mission who have been accredited to the SNC since Prince Norodom Sihanouk returned in Phnom Penh in November 14, 1991.

Speaking to the Indonesian diplomat, Prince Norodom Sihanouk thanked the Indonesian President Suharto for having appointed a head of diplomatic mission to SNC and pledged to create favourable conditions for the Indonesian official to accomplish his diplomatic mission here.

In reply, Mr. Sudarbo said he would do all in his capacity to make his mission a success.

Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia and member of the SNC, was also present on the occasion.

Sihanouk, Tie Banh Attend Release of 18 Prisoners

BK1801145392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] On the morning of 18 January, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, and his consort, accompanied by His Excellency General Tie Banh—member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense minister, and SNC member—went to Kompong Speu Province to preside over the release of 18 prisoners there.

Attending the ceremony were diplomats from various embassies to Cambodia; representatives of the United Nations, human rights organizations, and the International Committee of the Red Cross; and delegates from the other Cambodian side, including the Khmer People's National Liberation Front of Mr. Son Sann and the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia. Leaders and inhabitants in Kompong Speu Province were also present there to warmly welcome the samdech and his consort as well as the national and international guests.

On that occasion, after Mr. Hem Phan, member of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the provincial party committee and people's committee, presented a report on the release of the 18 political prisoners in compliance with the spirit of the Paris accord, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk took the floor pointing out that the accord signed in Paris on 23 October 1991 has provided a good opportunity for ending conflict and war, with the aim of reaching national reunification for the reconstruction of the country with assistance from international organizations, particularly the United Nations and various countries the world over.

The samdech also recalled the past bitter events that caused our nation to step backward for several years. He extolled the CPP and the Government of the State of Cambodia for their efforts and leadership in rebuilding the country, leading up to the current progress. The samdech then profoundly thanked various international organizations that have assisted the Cambodian people in the past in the humanitarian, social, and health fields and that have promoted their well-being and living standards.

His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk also wished the newly-released 18 fellow compatriots well and urged them—the rightful citizens of an independent country—to work hard for the interests of the society and nation, the sake of peace, and the promotion of our homeland's prosperity in the near future.

Ranariddh Remark on Neutral Phnom Penh Cited

BK1901031892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] On 17 January, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] from FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], said that at the moment Phnom Penh is not yet neutral because the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] is not yet deployed there.

This statement by Prince Norodom Ranariddh clearly shows that without UNTAC in Phnom Penh, the city cannot be a neutral zone. Vietnamese aggressor forces will continue to carry out activities to constantly create insecurity to prevent the SNC, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, from functioning normally in Phnom Penh. Instead, incessant pressure from here and there has been applied on the tripartite resistance forces. Therefore, Phnom Penh must be made a neutral zone. The UNTAC should be quickly dispatched there. Only when Phnom Penh is neutral can the SNC function fully and normally at its headquarters in the city in accordance with the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

Former Political Prisoners Form Opposition Party

BK1801023092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0214 GMT 18 Jan 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 18 (AFP)—Former political prisoners have formed Cambodia's first embryo opposition party which could challenge the country's four political factions in elections here next year.

The party, called ADHOC, the French acronym for Cambodian Human Rights Association, submitted its charter to the Supreme National Council (SNC) Friday, said ADHOC's general secretary Khay Matoury, a former political prisoner.

Cambodia's four factions recently decided to allow opposition groups to form, but only as clubs or associations and not full-fledged parties, which require 5,000 signatures. The groups must apply to the SNC for approval.

"We are engaged in a struggle for the respect of human rights of all Cambodians, no matter what their political affiliation or beliefs," ADHOC's founders Khay Matoury and Thun Saray wrote in an introduction letter.

ADHOC will try to "rally all citizens of Cambodia who want to defend their rights," according to its charter.

ADHOC seeks to "eliminate all measures of political intimidation, particularly arbitrary detentions."

It pledges to fight to prevent the reoccurrence of the massacres of the Khmer Rouge regime, in which hundreds of thousands of Cambodians died.

ADHOC also pledges to make a thorough investigation of all political prisoners still being held by the Phnom Penh Government.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is overseeing the release of some 1,200 prisoners, as specified in the peace treaty ending the civil war signed last October in Paris.

Khay Matoury said ADHOC would at some point form a full opposition party.

He and Thun Saray spent 18 months in jail for their role in forming an opposition party before its time.

They and four others including a friend of Prime Minister Hun Sen, Ung Phan, set up the Liberal Social Democratic Party in May 1990. They were promptly arrested under the one-party, communist system laws that made dissent a crime.

The group of six was released in October 1991, just before the signing of the peace treaty ending the war and mandating the release of all political prisoners.

But according to several political sources, the six were given a gag order by the Phnom Penh Government and told if they tried to regroup or spoke to the press, they would be arrested again.

A previous attempt by a Cambodian-American woman to form an opposition party here in November was quashed by the government, which said the new party had no authorization.

Phnom Penh has since amended its Constitution to allow for a multi-party democratic system.

ADHOC has 15 founding members, including architects, engineers, a doctor and an artist.

Its platform also calls for a campaign to change existing laws to bring them into compliance with internationally respected measures to safeguard human rights.

It will use publications, conferences and seminars to spread its message, according to the charter.

ADHOC has a president, general secretary, treasurer and a central committee of five members to carry out the daily work of the association.

No member of the Central Committee can hold a government position, the charter says.

The charter foresees an annual meeting of an ADHOC national assembly, and members must pay dues of about four dollars a year.

To Challenge 'Millionaire Communists'

BK2001072092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 20 Jan 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 20 (AFP)—Cambodia's best-known dissident said Monday he has set up a clandestine political party seeking to challenge the "millionaire communists" of the Phnom Penh government.

Oung Phan, Phnom Penh's former transport and communications minister who spent 17 months in jail for setting up the Liberal Social Democratic Party in May 1990, said he has carried on with his mission and is seeking the 5,000 signatures needed to make an opposition party legal in Cambodia.

"I have formed this party already, and I will declare it openly very shortly," he said in an interview.

Cambodia's ruling party has pledged liberal reforms and adherence to multi-party democracy since the end of the civil war and setting up of the Supreme National Council (SNC), a body created by the United Nations to represent the country's sovereignty under U.N. supervision.

But Oung Phan said the reforms had not been put into practice, and his party would seek a true path of democracy and freedoms for Cambodia.

"The communists have only changed their color," he said. "They say one thing, but they do differently. I see no change. They are millionaire communists."

He was telling the international press about his party now, he said, because he feared intimidation from the government that jailed him for his beliefs last year.

"I am afraid of being thrown in prison again. After my release from prison they threatened me not to make any political activity," he said. "I have been threatened a lot by the government, but I cannot give up. I have to continue the cause to which I committed myself before."

He is joined in setting up the party by Kann Man and Yang Horn, who were both arrested with him in 1990. He said many people interested in joining his party were former political prisoners, but he would not give names or details of the party's platform.

Two others also jailed with Oung Phan announced Saturday that they were setting up an embryo opposition group seeking to monitor the human rights situation here.

"We have to divide the work," he said. "What they want to do is quite different."

Many detainees released by the government last week under international supervision told stories of beatings and abuse while in prison.

The human rights group, known by its French acronym ADHOC [Cambodian Human Rights Association], has made an application to the SNC for approval.

Its founders said they would eventually form a full opposition party.

The SNC decided last week that political groups could form, but only as clubs or associations and not as full-fledged political parties.

Oung Phan said he wanted to wait until the full U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has arrived before submitting his documents to the SNC.

"For now the security is not very good in Cambodia," he said. "I want to wait until we are protected by UNTAC."

UNTAC, which is to supervise Cambodia's five key ministries and control elections in 1993, is due to arrive before April.

Takeo Province Party Committee Chairman Replaced

BK1201133092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] On 4 January, So Phirun, former vice chairman of Takeo Province's party committee and people's committee was installed as chairman of the province's party committee and people's committee replacing Khim Bo, who was transferred to assume new duties in Kompong Som City.

Thong Chhim, vice chairman of the Organizational Commission of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, and other cadres from various offices and units in the province also participated in the ceremony.

On that occasion, So Phirun pledged to do his utmost to further strengthen and expand the multifarious exploits achieved by Takeo Province in the past, specifically those in agriculture, an important spearhead to further promote the national economy. He also vowed to carry out his duties sincerely to set himself up as a model for the majority of cadres.

Fighting Erupts, Continues in Kompong Thom

BK1901003392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Reports from the Stoung-Kompong Thom battlefield say that hundreds of Vietnamese aggressor troops are leading five regiments of the Phnom Penh side's Army—regiments 16, 18, 21, 89, and the B-55 naval regiment—to launch an offensive against the liberated zones of Democratic Kampuchea southeast of Stoung District seat in Kompong Thom Province.

This offensive is led by a group of Vietnamese advisers, with Bou Thang, chief of staff [title as heard] of Phnom Penh's Army, in direct command. The reports says that on 15 January, our national Army and people in Stoung District fought back and repulsed two regiments. Fierce fighting continues.

This is a flagrant violation of the Paris agreement and successive statements by the Cambodan Supreme National Council. Our national Army and people in Stoung District pledge to further firmly unite to thwart this Vietnamese aggressors' offensive soon to contribute to the implementation of the Paris agreement.

Vietnamese Troops To Launch Offensive

BK1801012892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] According to reports by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK], on 11 January, the Vietnamese aggressors amassed more than five [as heard] divisions of their troops—Divisions 92, 4, 95, and 146, and a number of provincial and district forces—accompanied by 12 tanks, multiple rocket batteries, and eight 122-mm and 130-mm artillery pieces, and moved them from Moung township [Battambang Province] along the railway line toward Taphde and further in order to launch large-scale offensives against liberated zones of the Democratic Kampuchean national resistance forces.

This is a plan by the Vietnamese aggressors to destroy the UN peace agreement; they have done this throughout history. As for the Cambodian nation and people and the national resistance forces who have struggled against the Vietnamese aggressors for the past 13 years, they have enough experience in waging a national liberation war to make preparations to thwart this insane maneuver until the 23 October Paris peace agreement is meticulously implemented under the supervision of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Cambodian Supreme National Council.

Indonesia

Scout Chief: No Member Involved in Dili Incident

BK1801095892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0750 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 18 (OANA-ANTARA)—No one of the 100,000 scout (pramuka) members in East Timor was involved in the November 12 incident, the chief of the national quarter of pramuka, Mashudi said after meeting President Suharto here on Saturday.

He received confirmation about the information after checking was made on the names of rioters in the incident which has claimed around 50 lives.

Mashudi said the national pramuka quarter has taken part in the development of the region since the province integrated into Indonesia in 1976.

One of the main targets of pramuka development in the region is establishing national outlook, he said adding that pramuka development in East Timor will be focused on practical activities.

Mashudi called on the head of state to report prepartions for the saka bhayangkara [national jamboree] camping scheduled to be opened by Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Supardjo Rustam in Sibolangit, North Sumatera, from January 16 to 25 and attended by around 5,000 pramuka members.

Pramuka plans to set up an around rupiah 33 billion worth 17-story building in cooperation with the state-owned oil company Pertamina on the current site of the pramuka headquarters on Jalan (Road) Merdeka Timur, he said.

Under the agreement pramuka and Pertamina will share the building with three stories allocated for pramuka headquarter and 15 years later the whole building will be handed over to pramuka.

Construction of the building is expected this year, Hedijanto, the treasurer of the pramuka national quarter said.

Moroccan Envoy Denies Involvement

BK1901120092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0259 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Denpasar (Bali), Jan. 19 (OANA-ANTARA)—Moroccan Ambassador to Indonesia Mohamed Ayouche has categorically denied the involvement of four Moroccan nationals in the Dili incident last November, who are now under investigation in Ambon.

Ambassador Ayouche said here Saturday the authorities in Ambon were questioning the four Moroccan nationals not for reasons other than the expiration of their visa and staying permits.

The ambassador was speaking to the press after he met with the governor of Bali, Ida Bagus Oka.

The Moroccan Embassy has officially conveyed a note to the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Jakarta to have the case settled in due manner, the envoy added.

"One thing for sure, they were not involved in the incident. They only have problems with their visa," Ambassador Ayouche stressed, adding that "there are no Moroccans who are terrorists."

Immigration officials in the capital of Maluku detained Bas Azis, Subandji Mohamed, Ramli Idris, and Rahali Mustafa [names as received] after these Morrocan nationals entered the province illegally from East Timor Province.

The officials said the Moroccan nationals were known to have been staying in Dili, East Timor since November 1991.

In the meeting, Ambassador Ayouche had brought forward a proposal for cooperation in the field of tourism between Morocco and Indonesia, especially with Bali.

"We have a place in Eastern Morocco which is similar to Bali as a tourist center. A cooperation between the two places might be mutually profitable," he pointed out.

Governor Bagus Oka welcomes the proposal and waits for the follow up, Ambassador Ayouche said.

Trial for Leakage of State Secrets Begins

BK2101091392 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0612 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Dili (East Timor), Jan 21 (OANA-ANTARA)—Dili state court has started with the hearing of a case of leaking out state secrets in which the three defendants have to appear in separate sessions.

The Court session on Monday under the chairmanship of judge Pandapotan Sinaga heard defendant Felismina Dos Santos Coceicao (29) a civil servant with Wira Dharma Military Regimental Command here.

Prosecutor Hambali Ali charged the defendant of having reproduced documents classified as secret in the command's secretariat without consent of his authorities. He has resorted to such acts several times, after having made a start on June 6, 1991.

The documents included an interview by East Timor Governor to a Portuguese television system, followed by the arrival of a UN preliminary factfinding team here.

The documents were returned to its original place whereas its reproductions were entrusted to one Amora de Araujo, a repairshop worker, who now appears before court as a witness.

The charge said the defendant had been tempted by Amora (separate trial) who made the promise to be rewarded by a highranking position "after East Timor's independence has become a reality."

Amora forwarded the documents to Alponso Rangel (38), business man who in his turn sent them to Ramos Horta [a leader of Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] in Darwin, Australia, through the mediation of Bishop Belo.

One of the documents which had been sent to Australia was later on published by a Portuguese newspaper. The defendant, flanked by his legal adviser Ponco Atmono, who has been appointed by the court, was accused of having violated articles of the criminal procedural law.

During the court session for five hours the defendant every time covered his face with a handkerchief when newsmen tried to take a picture of him.

Answering questions by the judge, Alfonso Rangel confided that for safety sake the mailing of the documents abroad was done by Bishop Belo who oftentimes had done so ex-officially.

He sent them to Australia following request by Ramos Horta with whom he was acquainted since 1965 as a hotel employee in this city. The witness said not to know who had borne the costs for the document's mailing abroad.

Alfonso, an ex-official of the Education and Culture Ministry, admitted to have joined the Fretelin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] movement in the jungles from 1976-1979. He was once told that Ramos Horta headed Fretelin's delegation in the United Nations "to expedite East Timor's independence."

He told the court he did not know for certain that East Timor had integrated with the Indonesian territory since 1976. At that time he was in the jungles with the Fretelin insurgents.

The trial which attracted a wide audience from the Dili people will be continued on Thursday.

Restraint in Croatia, Slovenia Recognition Hailed

BK2001113792 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1035 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Jakarta, Jan.20 (OANA/ANTARA)—The House of Representatives (DPR) hails Indonesia's attitude of restraining from recognizing Croatia and Slovenia, two breakaway republics in the Yugoslav federation.

Every country needs peace. And when we can't help restore peace to a country, we'd better not make any statement whatsoever, the chairman of the House Commission I, Imron Rosyadi, told ANTARA here on Monday.

We fully support the statement made by (Foreign Affairs) Minister Alatas. It is really wise, Imron, whose commission oversees foreign affairs, security and defense, information and the armed forces, added.

The commission's vice chairman, Theo L. Sambuaga, and two members, Marcel Beding and Marzuki Darusman, brought forward the same view, adding that Indonesia had especially to take into account the historical ties between the two countries as two leading members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Theo and Marcel, however, said it appeared the wish of Croatia and Slovenia to become independent states would be materialized in the future, considering that this trend has been increasing in the world today.

Despite the possibility, Theo pointed out, recognition of Croatia and Slovenia at the time—at the height of a heated civil war in Yugoslavia, is tantamount to helping it crush itself further.

While supporting Alatas' statement, Marcel said that the attitude of wait and see would be best for Indonesia at the moment. We have to wait until all the problems have been settled, he said.

Marzuki Darusman said the statement was appropriate, and yet it was made rather late because the development of the situation had progressed too far.

Ali Alatas said on Sunday that Indonesia has not yet accepted Croatia and Slovenia as independent states.

The attitude is based on the principles of non-alignment, in the sense that Indonesia provides the opportunity to the people of Yugoslavia to determine their own destiny, Alatas said.

Laos

43d Anniversary of People's Army Celebrated

Objectives of Celebrations Noted

BK1701141392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 17 Jan 92

["Introductory feature": "Organize the Celebration of the 43d Anniversary of the Lao People's Army To Have Good Content and Profound Significance"]

[Text] Dear listeners, the 43d founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army [LPA] on 20 January is approaching us. Our LPA and people will this year celebrate the event in an extremely meaningful manner amid efforts being made in the country and world to secure peace and peaceful coexistence and as the entire party, Army, and people are elated by the multifaceted achievements and victories we have accomplished. We are celebrating the LPA founding anniversary as our country is in the process of establishing the new regime and building our own strength in all areas. In order to organize the honorable celebration of the historic 43d birthday of the LPA—the working class' new revolutionary Army organized, guided, educated, and trained by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party—the LPA General Political Department recently issued instructions to military officers both in towns and rural areas, including the main and regional armed forces, guerrilla units, and people's security forces to jointly organize the celebration of the LPA anniversary with good content and significance. The instruction clearly stipulates the following expectations:

First, the celebration should enable party cadres and members and combatants in the entire Army to be deeply imbued with and proud of the past traditions of the LPA in general, and local units in particular. And it should create immovable confidence among them toward the party's leadership and its military policy and their revolutionary victory and strength.

Second, it should take this occasion to mobilize all units to launch an emulation drive in fulfilling their duties, improving their strength in all aspects, enhancing self-vigilance to defeat all destructive enemy schemes, appreciating the policies of grass-roots development and economic construction, improving the living conditions inside units, and registering more and better concrete achievements as tributes to the two historic events—namely, the 1992 anniversaries of the LPA and party.

As for the contents of the celebration of the LPA founding anniversary, the instruction says:

All units are instructed to review the past operation plans and the implementation of resolutions and orders from higher echelons, draw lessons from their past performance, and strive to complete the unfinished tasks; propagate among men and officers the traditions of the LPA and specific units; correct all weak points and promote the achievements to bring about changes in political thinking and tasks; upgrade operational efficiency; and clean and decorate the premises and club houses of units and museums. All units are instructed to send teams with the people to listen to their views and complaints. The people's views and opinions must be regarded as important guidance for strengthening units.

The celebration of the event must be carried out in a compact manner. Extravagant, time-consuming, and excessive celebrations must be avoided. As 20 January is approaching, a number of units have already completed celebrations of the event. Those still making preparations for the occasion must try to comply with the contents and expectations laid down by the General Political Department. The instruction will enable all units to organize the celebrations conveniently and provide subjective conditions for them in organizing the celebrations in their respective localities. The leading organs and commanding staff of all units must take actions to ensure that the celebrations will be carried out in a joyful atmosphere. The most important thing during the celebrations is that we must avoid all acts of recklessness and negligence toward duties. In other words, the celebrations must be carried out while the state of all-around alertness is maintained to secure full safety during the event.

Cadres Urged To Fulfill New Tasks

BK2001141992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Editorial: "Continue Enhancing the 20 January Spirit and March Forward To Fulfill Duties in the New Period"]

[Text] Respected listeners, today our entire party, Army, and people are celebrating together the founding anniversary of the Lao People's Army [LPA] with a sense of pride and jubilation over the all-around growth and development of our Army. Over the past 43 years, under the talented and clear-sighted leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and with the support and feeding by the multiethnic people, our Army has passed through numerous tests and trials and made untold numbers of great sacrifices in many fields.

The glorious tradition created by our Army amid the flames of fierce and uncompromising national liberation struggle clearly testified to its esteemed spirit of patriotism and profound hatred against the enemies. Our Army was profoundly imbued with a sense of perseverance and determination to fight and to defeat the foreign enemy-aggressors and their henchmen. Its sense of patriotism and indignation against the interference, aggression, and oppression by the colonialists and their lackeys constituted the most fundamental factor in our arduous struggle to defeat the stronger enemies who were better equipped with modern war materials, thereby enabling our people to triumphantly fulfill the objectives of the popular democratic revolution.

Over the past 16 years of upgrading and building the popular democratic regime, especially in fulfilling the tasks set forth for 1991, under the beacon of the resolutions adopted by the Fifth LPRP Central Committee, and though faced with numerous difficulties caused by crop pests and continual subversive acts committed by the enemies against our new regime in some localities, our Armed Forces and people have managed to fundamentally accomplish firm achievementas and victories in various fields. First of all, we have made imppressive achievements in agricultural production and have completed the construction of irrigation projects in many areas, which have enabled farmers to carry out double rice cropping each year. Many bridges, roads, and shelters have been built and repaired. National defense and public maintenance security work has been decidedly fulfilled. All acts of the enemies in resisting the revolution and the new regime have been duly smashed.

All the achievements and victories won by our Armed Forces and people, both in the past and in the present, are of great historic significance. They have become important favorable conditions for our people in gradually building our country. At the same time, they have absolutely testified that the political and military lines of our party are totally correct, and that only under the leadership of the LPRP will the Army grow stronger and more powerful and win victories in fighting and will prosperity and happiness be brought to our people.

On the occasion of the 43d LPA founding anniversary, all officers and rank-and-file soldiers in our Armed Forces would like to express our profound gratitude to the majestic and magnificent LPRP—the organizer and leader that has educated and built our Army from being small to being big, and from being weak to being strong, thus transforming it into the strong people's Army as it is these days. We are extremely grateful to the government and multiethnic people for educating, building, feeding, and looking after the Army to become strong and powerful. At the same time, our Armed Forces would like to express our overwhelming thanks and gratitude to the Vietnamese Army and people, the Cambodian Army and people, the Chinese Army and people, and all other internationalist friends for rendering invaluable assistance and support to the Lao revolution, both in the past and in the present.

To further enhance the glorious tradition of our Army, and to march forward to fulfill the tasks entrusted by the party in the new period of revolution, let all cadres and combatants in our Army review the execution of our overall duties and the duties of individual units in the past with a sense of responsibility so as to pinpoint their fine traditions and to find out and criticize certain weak points and shortcomings which may lead them to disgrace and to become weaker. At the same time, we must strive together to forge a new sense of determination to march forward to compete with one another in training and forging ourselves to become three-good cadres and combatants and to build all-round strong units. We must stand ready to fulfill all duties, to defend the country under all circumstances, and to ardently contribute to the tasks of defending and building our beloved country, thus making it more prosperous and everlasting.

Activities of Military Leadership Cited

BK2001150592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] This morning, the military leadership of the National Defense Ministry led by Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the Army General Political Department, laid a wreath at the Monument of Unknown Combatants in memory of those combatants who have sacrificed their lives for the national and popular revolution.

On the same morning, Lt Gen Osakan Thammatheva also chatted with more than 500 senior cadres and combatants from many units and departments in Vientiane Municipality who gathered at the meeting hall of the National Defense Ministry. During the chatting, Lt Gen Osakan recalled the tradition of gallant fighting of the heroic Lao fighters during the national liberation struggle against the imperialists in the past and the struggle to defend and to build the country at present. At the same time, speaking on behalf of the leadership of the National Defense Ministry and the Lao People's Army, he expressed gratitude toward and hailed the great achievements accomplished by the senior cadres and combatants who have sacrificed their lives and strength by tirelessly contributing to carrying out the national revolution cause and for their faith in the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. The general called on all senior cadres to heighten the tradition and spirit of gallant unity and to continue making contributions to carrying out the revolutionary cause in defending and building the country to win greater new victories.

Public Activities Held in Vientiane

BK2101094892 Vientiane KPL in English 0903 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Vientiane, January 21 (KPL)—A group of Vientiane Party Committee and Vientiane Prefecture Administration led by Mr. Oudom Khatthigna, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, secretary of the party committee of Vientiane Prefecture, yesterday laid a wreath at the Monument of Unknown Soldiers in memory of the revolutionary soldiers who lost their lives for the cause of the nation.

This was to be followed by a visit to the Military Command of Vientiane Prefecture. Mr. Oudom Khatthigna and his party congratulated the soldiers and presented them best wishes and gifts.

On the same morning, the executive boards of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth [Union], the Lao Women's Union, and the Lao Federation of Trade Union in Vientiane along with representatives of the districts, factories in the capital paid tribute to the fallen combatants at the monument and presented gifts to soldiers.

In anticipation of the Army day, the Vientiane golf club organised, on Jan 1991 a golf tournament at the course at Nongniang, Saisettha District. 39 players of Australian, Swedish, German, Canadian, and Thai nationalities took part apart from local players.

To express their gratefulness to the Army day, three private companies in Vientiane, namely the Vientiane Export-Import Company, Lao Phanit Company, and Somboun Trading Company, presented the Vientiane Prefecture Militay Command three tons of rice and 1,000 cans of tinned fish.

Attaches of Friendly Countries Thanked

BK2101092592 Vientiane KPL in English 0856 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Vientiane, January 21 (KPL)—High-ranking officers of the National Defence Ministry led by Colonel General Osakan Thammatheva, deputy minister of national defence and head of the General Political Department of the Lao People's Army [LPA], yesterday laid a wreath at the Monument of Unknown Soldiers on the occasion of the 43rd LPA's day (20/1/1949-1992).

On the same morning, Col Gen Osakan Thammatheva talked to more than 500 veteran soldiers at the club of the ministry.

He recalled the courage of heroic Lao soldiers in the struggle for the national salvation against imperialism in the past as well as in the present period of the national defence and construction. On behalf of the executives of the Ministry of National Defence, he expressed gratitude and congratulations to veteran revolutionary soldiers for their tireless devotion of efforts and lives to the cause of the national revolution. The colonel general, on this occasion, called on all the veteran revolutionaries to enhance their courage, to continue to contribute their efforts to the cause of the national defence and construction.'

Also on the same morning, the leading officers of the Ministry led by Col Gen Ai Souli-gnaseng, deputy minister of national defence, received at the Ministry military attaches of Vietnam, China, Cambodia, and Russia.

Col Gen Ai Souli-gnaseng, on behalf of the Lao People's Army, expressed thanks to the attaches and expressed gratitude for the past and the present support from the armies and people of the friendly countries to the Lao Army and people. He expressed conviction that the friendly relations between the Lao People's Army and the armies of the friendly countries would be strengthened and developed constantly.

Kaysone Gives 6 Jan Banquet Speech in Thailand

BK2001090392 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 9 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[Speech by Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, delivered at the banquet hosted by the king and queen of the Kingdom of Thailand in Bangkok on 6 January]

[Text] Highly respected Their Majesties King Phumiphon Aduyadet and Queen Sirikit;

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

My wife and I are extremely pleased to attend this honorable banquet hosted by their majesties the king and queen of the Kingdom of Thailand for us today.

Your majesty's words about Laos, as well as Thai-Lao relations, are highly valued and will be remembered forever by both peoples. My wife and I would like to express our sincere thanks for the warm and honorable reception accorded to us by their majesties and members of the royal family, as well as by the Thai people of all strata. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to covey my greetings to all brotherly Thai people.

My visit to Thailand comes at a time when the entire Thai people have just celebrated the 5 December great birthday of his majesty the king. Now, they are also preparing to celebrate the fifth cycle of the 12 August birthday of her majesty the queen with a sense of great loyalty. We see that under the royal patronage of his majesty the king, the Kingdom of Thailand has continually developed and the royal family are truly the protectors of the Thai people and are most highly esteemed in their hearts.

Highly respected Your Majesty, The Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the Kingdom of Thailand are not only close neighbors, but closely bound by race since ancient times. History reveals that Laos and Thailand originated from the same source, under the reign of King Bolomlasathilat. This explains why the two countries share similar customs, faith, culture, traditions, and languages. The Lao and Thai peoples have long maintained brotherly and good-neighborly relations, and have coexisted on this golden peninsula from time immemorial.

As time passed by, the two nations have developed and have become two independent countries. There were times in history that relations between Laos and Thailand were not so smooth, but many times the two countries enjoyed friendly relations and helped each other in territorial defense.

The Lao people are highly pleased to see that the visit to the LPDR of Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon in March 1990 has further strengthened Lao-Thai relations in many aspects, which can be testified by the exchange of visits between high-level delegations of the military and governments of the two countries. Hence, the two countries have accomplished gradual solutions to various bilateral problems and have established a cooperative mechanism to ensure the continuation of their good relations.

Suffice it to say that only through enhancing our spirit of goodneighborliness and brotherhood, avoiding harboring unfriendly attitudes toward each other, and adhering to the teachings of Buddhism and the five principles of peaceful coexistence, can we settle any conflict or problem pertaining to Lao-Thai relations.

I firmly believe that this visit to the Kingdom of Thailand will mark an important milestone of the new era of relations between the two countries—the era of bilateral understanding which is the foundation for cooperation in national construction and better livelihood and prosperity of the people of the two countries.

The Lao Government and people are currently exerting all efforts to develop their country in line with the comprehensive restructuring policy, and consistently implement the policy of broadening relations and cooperation with all countries in the world, especially with close neighbors. We believe that our proposed participation in the Paris agreement and readiness to join the ASEAN as an observer are important steps contributing to the strengthening of peace, friendship, stability, and cooperation in this region. Particularly with Thailand, we are always determined to foster close cooperation with the Thai Government and people to create genuine brotherly and good-neighborly relations between our two countries.

On this auspicious occasion, I invite all distinguished ladies and gentlemen here to join me to drink a toast for: the happiness and longevity of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet; Her Majesty Queen Sirikit; and all members of the royal family of the Kingdom of Thailand; the prosperity of the Thai people; the brotherly and good-neighborly relations between Laos and Thailand and between the Lao and Thai peoples; and the good health of all distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

Japanese Law Expert Lectures on Economy

BK2101100392 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Vientiane, January 21 (KPL)—The Ministry of Justice yesterday held here a lecture on law, market and economic development presented by Dr. Nobusuki Yasuda, Japanese researcher of the Japanese Institute for Economic Develpment. Over 50 persons from courts, various ministries, services and enterprises in Vientiane attended the lecture.

Deputy Minister of Justice Keyoun Gnotsaiviboun, in his address before the lecture, said that the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] is now realising the policy of comprehensive renovation, particularly in economic area, through a market-oriented economy mechanism and a liberalised economic relations with foreign countries. To serve this policy, he said, it is necessary to build up some economic laws especially the laws on trade and enterprise.

The deputy minister also said the lecture, in addition to helping step up the Lao PDR's legal system, was an exchange of legal experiences between Lao and Japanese lawyers and the promotion of Lao-Japanese cooperation in legal field.

Japanese Ambassador to Laos Shigemi Ando, who also attended the opening session of the lecture, viewed that this lecture will provide an opportunity for Lao lawyers and businessmen to gain more basic legal knowledge. It will also contribute to building trade and business laws in Laos.

The lecture to last for two days will focus on main points, which are basic for economic development.

Philippines

Search for Kidnapped U.S. Executive Continues

Kidnappers Ask $20 Million Ransom

HK1801052492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Italicized passages in English]

[Text] A $20 million ransom is being asked by kidnappers of Michael Barnes, vice president and general manager of Philippine Geothermal Incorporated.

Barnes was kidnapped yesterday morning in front of Metrobank in Makati. Before this, it was suspected that the kidnapping was done by the New People's Army because the company refused to pay revolutionary taxes.

Nevertheless, the latest report from authorities indicates that this might also be the workings of rightist rebels.

Meanwhile, General Cesar Nazareno, Philippine National Police director, ordered a widespread manhunt for the kidnappers and instructed all police to closely guard all exit points in Metro Manila.

In a related report, the Department of Justice has again mobilized the task force on kidnapping in relation to the kidnapping of the American official of Philippine Geothermal Incorporated.

Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III said that they are also coordinating with the Department of Interior and Local Government [DILG] in forming a similar task force in order to facilitate the immediate prosecution of the suspects.

[Begin Bello recording] *After I received the report* I immediately activated and called assistant chief state prosecutor Mariano, *who is my assistant in the task force on kidnapping. Now I understand that the DILG is also forming a task force on kidnapping.* So Mariano and the DILG had a meeting yesterday and discussed that *we should coordinate our efforts.* [end recording]

Kidnappers Still Unidentified

HK2001023892 Quezon City MALAYA in English 20 Jan 92 pp 1, 2

[By Noel Partolome, Nida Mendoza, and Marie Rose Feliciano]

[Excerpts] The U.S. mother company of Philippine Geothermal Inc. [PGI] on Saturday sent a Briton to negotiate for the release of American executive Michael Barnes.

Camp Crame sources identified the negotiator as Hugh Lohan, security consultant of the Los Angeles-based Unocal Corp.

Investigators said Lohan would have to wait a while as they have no firm leads yet on who was responsible for the abduction of Barnes, 40, PGI vice president, on Friday in front of the Metrobank Plaza building where he held office on Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. in Makati.

Workers at the PGI geothermal plant in the Makiling-Banahaw area received a ransom note allegedly from the New People's Army [NPA] Friday afternoon, but police have yet to determine the authenticity of the note.

A Malacanang official who requested he not be identified yesterday said he was not ruling out the possibility that rightist rebels could be behind the kidnapping to "destabilize the government a few months before the elections."

Police yesterday junked a theory that the kidnapping was the handiwork of a 15-man gang headed by a police captain after questioning four members of the gang who were arrested before Barnes' kidnapping. [passage omitted]

With the involvement of the kidnap-for-ransom gang discounted, police are forced back to look into the New People's Army angle.

Four men abducted Barnes at gunpoint while he was about to alight from his Mercedes Benz car. They escaped in a Mitsubishi Pajero jeep.

Security guards did not put up a fight as they were unarmed. Police said it was Barnes himself who sometime back ordered the guards not to carry firearms. Police said they have no idea why Barnes gave such an order.

The American Chamber of Commerce on Saturday received a call at its office on Paseo de Roxas in Makati saying that the body of Barnes would be dumped at the corner of EDSA [Epifanio delos Santos Avenue] and Ortigas yesterday.

"The caller spoke in broken English, and sounded like a Japanese," a police source said.

Police said it was likely a crank call, but investigators are not ruling out the possibility that the kidnapping was mounted by the Japanese Red Army terrorist organization.

"The most probable suspects in the Barnes kidnapping could be the NPA who gain more from the kidnapping of an American business executive," Chief Superintendent Vicente Vinarao, chief of the Criminal Investigation Command, said.

"Definitely, the company will have to negotiate for the release of Barnes," Vinarao added.

Police said PGI officials have confirmed that the NPAs some six months back demanded $20 million in protection money. The ransom note received last Friday, allegedly coming from the NPA Meliton Glor Southern Tagalog Command, did not demand any money. [passage omitted]

At the Palace, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said President Aquino has given instructions to the Philippine National Police to "solve this case immediately and leave no stone unturned."

The President also stressed that the case was strictly a police matter, within the jurisdiction of the PNP.

The Palace said Mrs. Aquino has not issued any deadline to the police to get the kidnap men, saying it was "difficult to give deadlines on kidnapping cases." [passage omitted]

Barnes is the second foreign buiness executive kidnapped since 1986 when gunmen reportedly belonging to the New People's Army abducted Nobuyuki Wakaoji, local manager of the Japanese firm Mitsui and Co.

'Rogue' Soldiers Suspected

HK1901072992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0717 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Manila, Jan 19 (AFP)—Rogue soldiers and policemen could be behind the abduction of senior American business executive Michael Barnes at the heart of the Philippine financial district here last week, a police official said here Sunday.

"We cannot discount the possibility that some AWOL military and police personnel are involved," Chief Superintendent Vicente Vinarao said over radio station DZMM here, referring to deserters or those who went absent without leave (AWOL).

But Vinarao, the chief of the national police's Criminal Investigation Service (CIS), said he could not rule out the possibility that communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas or right-wing military rebels were involved.

Barnes, vice president of the multinational firm Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI), was snatched by gun-wielding men while he was being driven to work in Makati district early Friday.

Police said an unidentified man subsequently telephoned the PGI offices here and demanded 20 million dollars in exchange for Barnes' freedom. Police investigators could not immediately determine whether the call was authentic or a hoax.

A police artist's sketch of two of the suspects was published by a Manila newspaper Sunday.

Vinarao said he had received an order from President Corazon Aquino to "rescue Mr. Barnes" as soon as possible.

The case is seen here as a crucial test for the government, which is trying to court foreign investment to climb out of a recession and ease a 10.58 percent unemployment rate.

The local newspaper DAILY GLOBE on Sunday directly accused the military of harboring officers and men who it said are behind the abduction.

"Michael Barnes is a victim of the rising criminality in the country—criminality run, by and large, by elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," it said in an editorial.

Vinarao also announced the arrest of a gang of rogue policemen who allegedly masterminded a rash of kidnap for ransom cases of wealthy Filipino-Chinese businessmen here and in the provinces last year.

But he stressed that four alleged gang leaders now in government custody, were "definitely" not involved in the Barnes abduction, denying newspaper reports suggesting they were the primary suspects.

The arist's sketches of the suspects in the American's kidnapping "do not have any similarity with those arrested by the CIS or those who are still at large," Vinarao said.

Several other gang members, who also included elements from the criminal underworld, are still at large, he said, and appealed to the kidnap victims to come out and testify against the detained suspects so they would be charged in court.

NPA Denies Involvement

HK2001073492 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] According to Colonel Rodolfo Garcia of the Southern Command District, the identities of the kidnappers of Michael Barnes of the Philippine Geothermal Incorporated [PGI] remain unknown.

Meanwhile, Chief Superintendent Vicente Vinarao of the Criminal Investigation Service mentioned that the New People's Army [NPA] is still their primary suspect in the kidnapping of the American executive.

The authorities are still studying the possible involvement of the rebel soldiers and former police and military men in the kidnapping case.

Earlier, the communist rebels denied their involvement in the kidnapping case because it is against their principles. It is recalled that the NPA rebels were reported to ask for revolutionary taxes from PGI six months ago.

U.S. Security Firm To Negotiate

HK2001003592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] A U.S.-based security firm has been called by the government to try to negotiate with the principal abductors of an American executive. According to a government official, the probable kidnappers of Michael Barnes are the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People, or the NPA [New People's Army], and not a police-led kidnap ring, as earlier presumed by the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation Service.

Meanwhile, Hugh Lohan, a British national working as an consultant of the Unocal Security, arrived yesterday. Unocal Security is a sister company of (Unicol) Incorporated, a Los Angeles-based company which is Barnes' employer.

Rise of Crime Viewed

HK2001051192 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 20 Jan 92 p 4

[Editorial: "The Barnes Kidnap: "Again We Are Not Safe"]

[Text] That the recent abduction of an officer of the American Chamber of Commerce here, Michael Barnes, underscores once more the deteriorating state of public safety and order in the Philippines is not new. What is new is that crime syndicates have become more flagrant in their underworld ways and law enforcers have become more inutile [as published] in crime-busting, albeit churning out without let-up empty press releases trumpeting this and that drive.

Again, we are once more filled with the feeling of defenselessness, like a flock of unprotected, shepherdless sheep. In a recent survey by the Social Weather Stations, respondents confessed to a feeling of helplessness; they felt unsafe due to the spate of spectacular crimes that fill the streets and the headlines. The Barnes kidnapping will surely reinforce that feeling.

The abduction took place in broad daylight in the international business district of Makati. The kidnap men were backed by solid logistics: heavily armed, they whisked off Barnes aboard a flashy Mitsubishi Pajero. The operation was swift and precise; we are left wishing that law enforcers could be as precise in their efforts to stem crime as in their legendary talent to come to the scene of the crime after its commission when hapless citizens have already been victimized.

The repercussions are dire. Foreign businessmen who have shunned the Philippines will have their fears confirmed that this is not a safe place to conduct business. The Barnes abduction in fact is somewhat a repeat of the 1989 aborted coup when the military rebels held out at Makati's high-risers and forced the constitutional troops to a standoff; the impasse caused the international image of the country as an investment site to sag even further. The kidnapping is even worse. During the siege of Makati, no foreigner was killed, hurt or kidnapped by the rebels.

That the kidnap men were armed to the hilt with automatic weapons is the supreme irony of the situation The police have supposedly set up checkpoints at various points in the metropolitan area to enforce the gun ban for the election season.

Investigators suspect that a syndicate composed of police and military personnel on Awol (absence without leave) is behind the kidnapping. They have voiced this suspicion perhaps to explain why the kidnap gang was able to motor to and out of Makati unchallenged. Other than that, there is nothing new. The citizenry has known all along that members of the police and the military have been involved in some of the more daring crimes lately. The authorities have confirmed this, but what are they exactly doing?

Late last year, when the people witnessed a tide of kidnappings for ransom (particularly the abduction and killing of C.P. Lopez in Negros Occidental), Malacanang formed a task force to stem the rise of kidnappings. The Barnes abduction shows that the effort is getting nowhere.

Government, particularly the police and the military, must go beyond mere assurances and public gestures that it is doing something. Publicity and sheer gimmickry will not stop the rise of crimes, much less reassure a citizenry already at its wits' end.

Abduction Hurting Foreign Investment

HK2101033792 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 21 Jan 92 p 1

[By Leticia Perez]

[Text] Japanese investors are more worried about the results of the elections than the kidnapping of American business executive Michael Barnes, which has again put the Philippines in a bad light abroad.

A top Japanese executive, expressing the views of Japanese businessmen, said they were more concerned that the democratic space resulting from the "people power" revolution that ousted the Marcos dictatorship may be reversed with the election of a new president.

But U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner said Barnes' kidnapping was a "tragedy" for the Aquino government's efforts to attract investors.

"It is just very unfortunate as this country struggles to re-establish herself in the world market place and proceed with plans to attract investment," Wisner was quoted by the ASSOCIATED PRESS as saying in Cebu City. "It just couldn't have come at a worse time."

Police yesterday admitted they have yet to establish "concrete leads" that could lead to the solution of the kidnapping even as President Aquino vowed "to do everything that must be done" to solve the case.

"I am hopeful that there will be some breaks in the case within the week," Mrs. Aquino said. "Certainly, we will do everything that must be done to bring these criminals before the bar of justice. This scourge of kidnappings must stop."

Meanwhile, the Japanese executive, who talked on condition of anonymity, said that in his talks with incoming Japanese investors and businessmen operating in the country, he was told that the Barnes kidnapping was not the most crucial factor that would influence, investments in the Philippines.

"Most Japanese are afraid that your country will go back to the age of Marcos," the executive said, citing that monopolies may again be an "in" thing. If this thing happens, he said, the Japanese would be among the first ones to complain.

In the case of the kidnapping of Japanese businessman Noboyuki Wakaoji in 1986, the official said Japanese businessmen at least welcomed the fact that one of their countrymen was able to return safely home.

"Scandals also happen in other countries, not only in the Philippines," the executive said.

The Barnes kidnapping, which took place five months before the country's national elections, has been a thorn in attracting foreign investors. Foreign investors right now are waiting in the sidelines till after the elections.

The American Chamber of Commerce said in a terse statement that it had advised their members to be extra cautious in their daily movements. Barnes is a member of the chamber.

Robert Sears, executive director of the chamber, as well as other American businessmen, did not want to talk to the press about the incident.

At the same time, the Philippine National Police fielded more than 100 special agents to track down Barnes' kidnappers and find their hideout, authorities said.

Police said the New People's Army [NPA] could be behind the kidnapping after Barnes' company, the Philippine Geothermal, Inc., refused to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the NPA.

Aquino Promises Resolution

HK2001115192 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has promised that she will ensure the resolution of the kidnapping of a U.S. national last week. The president said that she has instructed the appropriate agencies to rescue the abducted American, Michael Barnes. Here is Tanny Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] The president, in her press statement, said that the senseless abduction of Barnes and other similar kidnappings must stop. The president promised that the government will do everything to arrest and punish the criminals responsible for these crimes as soon as possible. The president is hoping that the Philippine National Police will have a positive lead within the week on what group is responsible for Barnes' abduction. [end recording]

Suspect Surrenders

HK2101085792 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 21 Jan 92

[By Reginald Espirito, DZXL Unit 19]

[Text] Progress is slowly being made in the Michael Barnes kidnapping case, as one of the suspected kidnappers has voluntarily surrendered to the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI]. The suspect was identified as police officer Eduardo Torres; however, NBI officials refused to identify the police district he belongs to.

NBI officials positively identified Torres as the owner of the backup car used in kidnapping Barnes last 17 January, and the vehicle was identified as an Isuzu Gemini, found by the authorities in Santa Cruz, Manila. Torres is currently undergoing interrogation by the NBI in order to shed more light on the controversial kidnapping of Michael Barnes, vice president and general manager of Philippine Geothermal Incorporated.

Aquino Opposes Abolition of Foreign Debt Council

HK2001053292 Quezon City MALAYA in English 18 Jan 92 p 2

[By Marie Rose Feliciano]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday opposed calls by legislators to abolish the Legislative-Executive Debt Council following its recommendation to include the loans incurred from the construction of the Bataan nuclear power plant [BNPP] in the new financial package government is working out with foreign creditors.

Mrs. Aquino, in a press statement, also gave no word on the government's final stand on the controversial nuclear plant loans described by legislators as "onerous."

But she promised to look into the legislators' complaints.

"Let me just state that the abolition of the council would not serve any useful purpose since it is precisely the existence of the Debt Council that permits us to get the views of a cross-section of our society so that all these views are considered when decisions on debt issues must be made," the President said.

House Assistant Majority Floor Leader Raul Roco (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Camarines Sur) has charged that the debt council arrived at the decision on the BNPP loans without notifying him and two other senators of the meeting.

The council, he said, was supposed to meet last Jan. 15 but it was cancelled for "still hazy reasons." He hinted that the council secretariat might not have notified him of the meeting to "stifle" opposition.

The other members of the debt council included Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao, Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, Sen. Alberto Romulo (LDP), and Rep. Margarito Teves (LDP, Negros Oriental).

Legislators have been opposing the inclusion of the nuclear power plant loans in the new package being negotiated with commercial creditors.

Sen. Rene Saguisag (LP) [Liberal Party] has said the governemnt has to defer its inclusion in the negotiations since having the BNPP papers securitized will only boost the defense of Westinghouse, the builder of the plant.

A New Jersey court has ruled that there is enough proof showing that former President Marcos had been bribed to award the contract to Washington.

Aquino Names New Elections Committee Head

HK2001095892 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 Jan 92

[By Dick Synchongco of DZRH Unit 6]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has appointed Judge Remedios Salazar Fernando as one new of the Commission on Elections [Comelec] commissioners. In her letter to Senate President Neptali Gonzales and the other Commission on Appointments members, the president named Ms. Remedios Fernando as one of the new Comelec commissioners, with a term lasting until 15 February 1998. Also in the same letter, the president expressed confidence that Fernando's nomination to Comelec would immediately be confirmed.

Fernando replaces former Commissioner Alfredo Abueg who recently resigned. The seat of former Commissioner Leopoldo Africa also remains vacant.

Imelda Marcos Formally Files for Presidency

HK2101092292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 21 Jan 92

[By Mike Abe of DZXL Unit 11]

[Excerpts] Former First Lady Imelda Marcos has formally filed her candidacy for president in the coming 11 May 1992 national elections. [passage omitted]

She was sworn in before Comelec [Commission on Elections] Commissioner Regalado Maumbong and two other Comelec officials. She filed her candidacy under the New Society Party [KBL] and the Nacionalista Party [NP]; however, she failed to mention which of the three NP factions she would be joining. She said that she is still awaiting the NP committee officials' decision on which faction she will be joining. As of the moment, she will be filing her candidacy under the NP-KBL. Up to now, supporters are still thronging around her. Here is part of the short statement Mrs. Marcos made before newsmen:

[Begin Marcos recording in English] My countrymen [words indistinct] the poor has cried with me. I know that the suffering of the Filipino people can be heard. What can be done? With God, it will be done. As I always said before, when the people dictate, I will follow. [end recording]

Police Pinpoint Probable Election Hotspots

HK2001062392 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Jan 92 p 8

[Text] San Fernando, Pampanga—Police authorities yesterday said at least two cities and 20 towns in Central Luzon are probable "hot spots" in the polls.

The probable "hot spots" are the cities of Angeles and Cabanatuan and the towns of Mabalacat, Magalang, and Porac, all in Pampanga; San Luis, Dipaculao, Dinalungan, Dilasag, and Dingalan in Aurora; San Miguel, San Ildefonso, San Rafael, Angat, and Norzagaray in Bulacan; Sta. Rosa, Aliaga, and Zaragoza in Nueva Ecija; San Manuel in Tarlac; and Sta. Cruz, Candelaria, and Masinloc in Zambales.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said yesterday that it is keeping a close watch on other areas of concern, such as Southern Philippine terrorists, "ultra-rightist" groups and organized crime groups which may be planning to disrupt the coming elections.

Director General Cesar P. Nazareno, PNP chief, had earlier said that the primary areas of concern of the police are the political dynasties and private armed groups.

At present, it was learned, the secessionist groups in Mindanao are rocked by leadership quarrels, disunity, demoralization, and inadequate logistical resources.

"Probably because of this predicament, the Moro National Liberation Front and Moro Islamic Liberation Front are preparing to be involved in the forthcoming elections mainly to recover some influence and gain some finances," the report stated.

Another area of concern by the police is the presence of "ultra-rightist" groups that may be planning to stop the holding of the elections.

Although the RAM-KSP-YOU [Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union] has categorically expressed its willingness to support orderly and peaceful elections, the PNP said that the possibility of an "ultra-rightist" plot to sabotage the electoral proceedings could not be discounted.

The PNP is also looking into the possible involvement of organized crime groups in election-related activities.

Senators Press for Keeping Vital Subic Equipment

HK2101035192 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 21 Jan 92 p 3

[By Johanna Son]

[Text] Senators yesterday pressed the Palace to immediately relay Manila's request that the United States leave behind vital equipment in Subic Naval Base, to ensure the success of the proposed Subic Economic Zone.

As senators remain mired in debate over the base conversion authority bill Guam has already been lobbying for some Subic equipment, including electric generators.

Guam Rep. Ben Blaz and U.S. Admiral Charles Larson, commander of all U.S. naval forces in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, have requested for the transfer of 3-mw emergency generators from Subic to Guam, after Subic's anticipated closure this year.

The generators can supply power to 5,000 homes.

Olongapo Mayor Richard Gordon also cited this as a reason for quick Senate passage of the bases conversion authority bill, which would pave the way for the creation of a government body that would make good use of the U.S. equipment.

Gordon said Subic had a total of 66 generators which could supply 24 mw, a resource the Philippines clearly needed.

Sen. Leticia Shahani, the foreign affairs committee chairperson, said Malacanang should do its part while the Senate was putting finishing touches on the bill, which would be approved this week.

"While we are doing this (discussing the bill), there should be a note verbale from the DFA [Department of Affairs] to the U.S. saying we are taking these steps to create the Base Conversion Development Authority and a free port in Subic, and would be interested in the retention of the equipment," Shahani said.

"Without these, it will be impossible to convert Subic," she added.

Likewise, she said, goodwill between Manila and Washington would help ensure that the U.S. Navy would remain a customer at Subic port.

Guam, Subic officials told Shahani, also wanted the floating drydocks and cranes in the naval base.

At a Senate local government committee hearing. Gordon and Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman crossed swords over the Special Subic Zone and the nine-man board of the proposed Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Roman said the zone would take away a part of Bataan, while Gordon stressed that the issue was not over turf, adding that the Bataan part of the zone was denuded of forests and uninhabited.

Meanwhile, Sen. Teofisto Guingona urged the National Power Corporation to transfer eight power generators at Clark Air Base for use in Mindanao, now afflicted by a power crisis.

"We understand that there are eight units in Clark. Four units generate 5 mw each, and four others generate 7.5 mw each," Guingona said in a statement.

He added that most of the generators should be transferred to Mindanao and only the minimum needed for the Philippine Air Force to maintain base security be left behind.

In a privilege speech last week Guingona said Lake Lanao could be harnessed by one more meter, from 699.15 to 698.15 m, provided deep wells and other development projects were constructed along the lake's coastal towns.

He also asked the government to immediately rehabilitate 13 other generators at Clark, and such old diesel plants as the PICOP [Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines], Nonoc and Aplaya, which could generate a total of 180 mw.

"This will cost millions but the millions spent is worth the billions wasted and the irreversible loss and dislocation that is now exacting a very heavy toll in that erstwhile land of promise," he said.

"It is tragic that there are idle generators while the Mindanao crisis worsens and the island is being engulfed by darkness," Guingona noted. "The problem... is so grave that it beckons fast and effective solutions. Everyday that this crisis continues means hundreds of millions lost to industry, and the probable loss of jobs to thousands."

Plans for Subic Economic Zone Noted

HK2001055492 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 20 Jan 92 p 7

[By Johnanna Son]

[Text] Senators are fine-tuning vast powers to be granted to the Subic special economic zone, even as they face mounting pressure from impatient base workers and grapple with the novelty of the concept.

Early this week, the chamber agreed to create a free port in the Subic Bay rim, after intense lobbying by Olongapo Mayor Richard Gordon and base workers.

Gordon originally batted for the creation of an "autonomous" Olongapo, but senators said this would entail the changing of boundaries that would mire Congress in politics and further delay the bill.

Even so, the debates on Subic as a free port have brought out thorny issues, such as the special zone's powers, and its ties to the national government and local government units.

Part of the problem is government's cramming to have some authority in place by the time the United States leaves Subic, the lateness of the time the special zone concept was agreed upon, and the complications of parochial politics.

"In many ways this is a do-it-yourself thing," Sen. Leticia Shahani said on Friday.

During the two years that the Base Conversion Development Authority [BCDA] has been pending in the Senate, it was only last week that the special economic zone idea was raised and accepted.

The Subic special zone, designed as "self-sustaining" industrial, commercial and investment centers, would be an experiment for the country.

Thus, as currently attended, the BCDA bill allows the president to proclaim similar zones also in Clark and other baselands.

Subic, of course, is a prime laboratory because of its bay. As envisioned in the Senate bill, the Subic special economic zone wil be composed of Olongapo City; Subic municipality in Zambales; and Morong municipality in Bataan.

Proposed amendments to the bill prepared by Shahani's committee show that the zone would be managed by a free zone without foreign exchange controls. Laws regulating foreign investors and banking would be more relaxed in an effort to attract foreign capital and create jobs.

Shahani's committee proposed that the zones be exempted from all local and national taxes, and instead turn over 3 percent of gross income earned by all enterprises within to the national government.

An additional 1 percent would be given to the local government units affected by the zone's creation, as a revenue-sharing mechanism.

The zone management would also have the power to obtain foreign loans.

The special economic zone would be run by a "Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority," an attached corporation to the BCDA and run by a chairman/administration and a nine-man board.

The Subic authority's board would be composed of the local chief executives of Olongapo, Subic and Morong and six representatives from the private sector—removing the originally heavy role of government.

Shahani also presented on the floor proposals that the Olongapo mayor become the authority's first chairman for the first year. Elections would be held after that, and should he still be chosen, he has to choose whether to keep the mayoral post or the authority's top man.

Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Ernesto Maceda have raised questions about the nature of the zone, which the latter called "the new republic of this Subic free port."

Maceda said it may be better for Congress to merely stick to general policies, warning that the bill may get bogged down in specifics and leave no time for bicameral negotiations by the time the legislature adjourns on Feb. 5.

Besides, he said, he wanted to know "whether this administrator will be the Central Bank, the Board of Investments, the Pagcor [Philippine Amusement and Games Corporation] and the Bureau of Immigration all rolled into one."

Sen. Ernesto Herrera reminded colleagues that the bill had to clarify incentives that would be available in the zone, as that could trigger migration from elsewhere.

In that case, the zone's management may have to deal with sudden increases in population and the resentment of local governments denied their own investments, he added.

Proposed amendments also suggest that in case of conflict between the Subic authority and the local government unit, the decision of the zone authority would prevail.

More amendments, some of which may change the current shape of the special economic zone, are expected this week. Proposals may be lifted from a previous bill, refined by the committee on economic affairs, creating special economic zones in four pilot areas; Zamboanga city, Port Irene in Cagayan, Lapu-Lapu city and General Santos city.

The mechanics of the BCDA itself had already been agreed earlier in the bill's discussions.

The Senate also chose to allow the President to limit or expand the special zone in the measure, wary of being caught in local politics showcased by the clash between Gordon and Bataan Rep. Felicito Payumo.

Lobbying in the Senate a day after Gordon briefed senators, Payumo reminded legislators that "two-thirds" of the expected zone area were in his province.

Payumo, a Liberal Party [LP] member, has relayed his concerns to LP chief Jovito Salonga. Today, the local government committee chaired by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. holds a hearing on the implications on other local governments of the Subic zone's creation.

Agreeing on the concept of a free port is easier than hammering out its details. But one thing is clear: the Senate, after rejecting the base treaty, ought to provide an alternative to base workers.

Indeed, the slow pace of debates at one point prompted Shahani to ask why the chamber—especially anti-base senators—was taking its time on the BCDA bill.

Like Gordon, Shahani said the creation of a strong authority would ensure that the U.S. would have something it "respects" to turn over to when if finally pulls out of Subic.

Army Seeks Australian, NZ Aid for Modernization

HK2101035292 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 21 Jan 92 p 10

[Text] With the impending cut in U.S. military assistance to the country starting next year, the Philippines is currently encouraging its other trade partners to support the ongoing modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The AFP, which for the last two years had acquired sophisticated air and seacraft as part of its P[Philippine peso]10-billion ten- year modernization program, needs an average of $200 million annually for maintaining the operation of the fleet alone.

Speaking before members of the Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce last Thursday night, Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa stressed "a quantitative and qualitative expansion of the current levels of our bilateral defense cooperation would certainly be a most welcome development." He, however, failed to specify the measures wherein the two countries can contribute.

He added that existing modernization program is the country's "investment for regional peace."

Australian Help

At present, the existing defense cooperation with Australia calls for the sending of an average of 85 AFP officers and men to attend military schools as well as undergo technical skills training in vehicle and aircraft maintenance.

On the part of New Zealand, no formal bilateral defense ties have been forged between that country and the Philippines, except for some "meetings to discuss security and intelligence issues concerning the two countries," he said.

"Our Government has been pursuing a number of policy and structural reforms. I am confident that these reforms will be appreciated by friends like you and this will boost especially Australia's and New Zealand's economic and security development assistance to the Philipines," he added.

This assistance, according to Sec. de Villa, will go a long way in the country's efforts to survive "the most crucial period of our time."

Sec. de Villa, together with Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Lisandro Abadia, met with the visiting Singaporean defense minister two weeks ago to discuss the possibility of a joint venture to construct state-of-the-art air bombardment and gunnery facilities in Palawan for the training of the Philippine Air Force.

Thailand

Dunkel Draft Accepted as GATT Talks Basis

BK2101023392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 92 p 17

[Excerpt] Cabinet yesterday granted the Commerce Ministry full authority to continue negotiations in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks using the 450-page draft agreement proposed by the head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as its basis.

The decision gives the ministry some flexibility in the coming critical weeks of the round, but essentially signals Thailand's acceptance of the draft "Final Act" submitted in December by GATT director-general Arthur Dunkel.

Negotiators from the 108 countries participating in the five-year-old round agreed on January 13 to try to reach a final agreement by mid-April, using the Dunkel text as a basis.

But some participants, most notably the European Community, Japan and South Korea, have argued that Mr Dunkel's proposals for liberalising agricultural trade go too far.

The United States, Australia and other agricultural exporters—now including Thailand—have said they are generally happy with the text, which covers all aspects of trade from customs duty rates, agriculture and textiles to investment, services and intellectual property rights.

Mr Dunkel is himself scheduled to visit Thailand this week and will hold consultations with Deputy Commerce Minister M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun.

Speaking after yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said the decision to accept the Dunkel text was at the ministry's recommendation. The Thai delegation will use the draft as the basis for its negotiating position in the talks which could be concluded in March.

He said the other ASEAN members participating in the talks, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore, had already announced their support for the Dunkel paper.

The outcome of the talks at this critical stage depends on how the European Community resolves its differences, said Mr Amaret. [passage omitted]

Lao President Satisfied With Medical Treatment

BK1901080492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Lao President Kaysone Phomvihan has received medical treatment at Sirirat Hospital in Bangkok. President of Mahidon University, Professor Dr. Pradit Charoenthaithawi, said the Lao President had stayed at the hosptial since 15 January for treatment as a private guest of his majesty the king.

He said the medical examination showed that the Lao president suffered from diabetes, heart ailment, cerebrosis [as heard], and glaucoma. Professor Dr. Pradit said that a team of oculists from Sirirat and Ramathibodi Hospitals used laser to remove glaucoma in the eyes of the 72-year-old Lao president during 16 and 17 January.

He said the Lao president was satisfied with the treatment and Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday visited the Lao President at Sirirat Hospital. President Kaysone will remain hospitalized for the next few days.

Anan Returns From SRV, Discusses Trip

BK1701135192 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun told reporters at the Air Force Headquarters Airport upon arrival after his three-day official visit to Vietnam that the visit was very successful. Two cooperative agreements—a trade agreement and an economic and technical agreement—were signed during the visit. A cooperative agreement on fishing was not signed. The Vietnamese side explained that the central government is discussing and working toward a solution to the issue concerning fishing cooperation with local authorities. Vietnam will sign an agreement with Thailand if a solution is found. The issue of Thai assistance in the form of 150-million-baht credit will be discussed further. However, a list of goods under the credit scheme has not yet been drawn up.

The prime minister said that the two sides shared identical views during the visit, which helped improve relations between the two countries remarkably. This is conducive to the stability of the region. In addition, Vietnam has also allowed Thailand to set up a consular office in Ho Chi Minh City, which the two sides will discuss again. Talks on a scheme for national gas cooperation have made great progress, and Vietnam has attached special interest to this issue.

Regarding Vietnam's attitude towards the Cambodian problem, the prime minister said that Vietnam had showed its intention to have peace in this region. All sides have to respect the joint peace agreement signed in Paris in October.

Paper on Prime Minister's Trip

BK1801093592 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 18 Jan 92 p 5

[Editorial: "Relations With Vietnam"]

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and his delegation paid an official visit to Vietnam 15-17 January. Besides strengthening bilateral relations, the purpose of the visit was also to discuss economic and investment cooperation, and especially to find a solution to the fishery problem.

The Foreign and Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministries had already received confirmation from Vietnam following talks at the official level during the visit by a Thai advance mission that a fishery agreement would be signed during the Thai prime minister's visit. But at the last minute Vietnam, without a clear explanation, asked that the signing of the agreement be delayed. This has greatly lessened the significance of the visit by the Thai prime minister and his delegation. There was a report that the delay was caused by differences between the central government and local authorities in Vietnam over the issue, which involves income earned from fishing contracts with the Thai private sector.

Concerning trade and investment cooperation, Thailand seemed to put too much hope in achievements and benefits from cooperation with Vietnam. Such a view was rather erratic; Thailand and Vietnam have had friction and conflicts throughout history, and at one point there was even a struggle to free Vietnam from Thai imperialism.

There is only a little trust for Thailand from Vietnam and other Indochinese countries. Thailand, therefore, needs to adjust its policy and make itself more trustworthy in the eyes of others. Do not forget that the countries in Indochina remember past political manoeuvres by the free world countries and are still wary of them. Even now, with the war having been over for more than a decade, some of them are still suffering from the highhanded policies of some of the powers.

Trip Called Boon To Economic Ties

BK1801022792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jan 92 p 4

[By Suphaphon Kanwirayothin]

[Text] In warm talks amidst the wintry weather in Hanoi, Thai and Vietnamese prime ministers this week took further steps in establishing strong economic relations between the two countries.

Thailand has made great strides in befriending Vietnam in recent months following intensive talks in Hanoi and Bangkok between Thai and Vietnamee officials. As a result, the two premiers managed to reciprocate official visits in a space of less than three months—something unthinkable in the past.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet called his younger counterpart "a very close friend of mine." Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun talked about the rapport he had developed when they first met in Bangkok last October.

Indeed, a lot of work has been done during the Anan administration to realise former prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan's dream of transforming the Indochina battlefield into a marketplace, thanks to conducive regional factors and persistent internal efforts to invest in this new market.

On the military front, Armed Forces Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun spent three days in Vietnam earlier this month during which top Thai and Vietnamese army officials discussed business and development issues, besides clearing the cloud of suspicion over security-related matters.

Against the backdrop of blossoming friendship, Thailand chose to lay down the hiccup over the fishery agreement, originally planned to be inked during Prime Minister Anan's visit.

Hanoi asked to delay the signing of the fisehry pact shortly before Mr Anan's trip. The agreement had been initialled by Thai Deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon and Vietnamese Vice Minister for Marine Products Huynh Cong Hai in Hanoi.

Citing a chorus of protests from its southern provincial authorities that they had had no say in the initialled pact which would affect their resources, Hanoi cautioned that the pact would be "nothing more than a piece of paper" if signed without the consent from these coastal authorities.

During his talks with the Vietnamese Prime Minister, Mr Anan expressed Thailand's view that the initialled agreement should be left as it is.

In their protest not to Hanoi, some southern provincial bodies took issue with the fact that Thai vesels continued to encroach upon Vietnamese territorial waters. They cited this as one of the reasons why the agreement should not be concluded. They reportedly demanded a guarantee from the Thai Government that it will prevent future encroachment by Thai vessels.

The Vietnamese were told that just as Hanoi cannot impose its will on the south, the Thai Government cannot absolutely prevent its fishing sector's activities at sea.

The Thai delegation remained adamant that the pact serves the mutual interest of the signatories, and expressed confidence that the pact can be signed soon.

In addition to the fishery issue, Mr Anan and Mr Kiet pledged that both countries would try to conclude other cooperation schemes, including:

1. The Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation. The two sides will negotiate Vietnam's counter-draft to the Thai proposal in the second week of next month in Bangkok.

2. Tourism Cooperation. The first draft was submitted, and negotiations will begin soon.

3. The protocol amending the Agreement on Commercial Maritime Navigation.

4. Cooperation in Gemstones. The first draft will be submitted to Vietnam by the end of this month.

5. Cooperation in rice production and trade. An agreement on this matter can be signed soon, Mr Anan said.

At the same time, some representatives of business associations accompanying the Prime Minister found their first encounter with Vietnamese officials far from inspiring. In one instance, a businessman complained that representatives of the Vietnam's State Committee for Cooperation and Investment hastily ended one of their meeting sessions.

The Prime Minister, however, appeared content with the objective of "having representatives of the Thai private sector exposed to the reality in Vietnam," as he told the chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen Vinh Ngiep.

The opening of a Bangkok Bank branch in Ho Chi Minh City and the pending approval of the Thai Military Bank's presence in This southern economic centre are expected to arouse the interest of Thai businessmen.

In a broader context, Thailand also played the role of a goodwill messenger in trying to bring about a reconciliation between Vietnam and the US.

According to reliable sources, Prime Minister Anan, who recently met US President George Bush, conveyed the message from Washington that regarding normalisation, the US still sticks to the "roadmap" which spells out steps leading to the lifting of the trade embargo.

The Vietnamese leaders reiterated Hanoi's stance that it found the US position unreasonable and not in harmoney with reality.

Prime Minister Anan acknowledged that Vietnam needs big powers like the US and Japan to jumpstart its economy. And Thailand has offered to become a good partner in this situation.

SRV Says Visit Boosted Relations

BK1801020992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jan 92 p A2

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Thailand has overcome the past syndrome it had in its relations with Vietnam after the successful visit of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, a senior Vietnamese foreign ministry official said here yesterday.

Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Vu Khoan praised Anan's visit as it showed the relations between both sides have matured and security concerns, which had sourced ties in the past, no longer posed a major bilateral problem. "We don't dwell in the past but look forward to the future," he said.

Khoan, who is in charge of Southeast Asian affairs, said that both countries have been successful in establishing a frank dialogue after a long time. "We have succeeded this time," he told THE NATION in an interview.

He said no security issues were featured in discussions Anan had with Vietnamese leaders, marking the first time that both countries concentrated on economic cooperation.

The minister is here to prepare Monday's visit here of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Anan returned to Bangkok yesterday ending his three-day official visit to Vietnam, which was hailed by Vietnamese leaders as a big success.

Although the signing of the joint fisheries agreement was postponed, Anan was able to highlight his visit with the increased level of understanding and mutual trust that had apparently been achieved. He also established a good and comfortable rapport with his Vietnmaese counterpart Vo Van Kiet, according to Khoan.

Khoan said that soon the two countries would work on the question of Vietnamese living in Thailand's northeastern region. Thai Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi has already accepted an invitation to visit Hanoi in March.

He said his visit will be crucial as both sides would discuss the fate of the Vietnamese, who have not yet received Thai citizenship.

It was the first time that interior ministries of the two countries will discuss this problem in which they hold the key to the settlement of this issue.

Vietnam has allowed Thailand to open a consular office in Ho Chi Minh City as requested. In return, Vietnam will set up a similar mission at a commercial province that can boost economic ties between the two nations.

Referring to the recent trip made by Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, the minister said Vietnam understood what Suchinda had tried to convey. While there, Suchinda invited the Vietnamese leaders to visit Thailand and go "anywhere" they wanted to clear the air of mistrust between the two nations over bilateral security issues.

Vietnam, he said, is currently in the process of expanding its relations with ASEAN countries and Vietnamese leaders are planning more visits to ASEAN nations. Kiet is scheduled to visit the Philippines later next month.

He said Vietnam is keen to establish diplomatic ties with oil-rich Brunei. Their diploamtic contacts have been so far restricted to their United Nations representatives. Brunei is the only ASEAN country which has no diplomatic ties with Vietnam.

It is possible, he pointed out that during Kiet's visit to Kuala Lumpur, Vietnam will express the intention to become an observer to the ASEAN annual meeting. In the previous meeting, ASEAN invited the former Soviet Union and China to attend the conference and met with their foreign ministers.

Anan: ASEAN Members Will Support Invitation

BK2001143592 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun was confident that the ASEAN members would support his move to invite the five world powers to sign the ASEAN peace treaty. He mentioned this when he talked to newsmen after the cabinet meeting. He explained that the treaty would become more effective with the five powers acceding to it. He also said that Vietnam and Laos have already expressed readiness to become members of the treaty.

[Begin recording] [Anan in progress] Under the agreement, there will be no efforts to push them out. I mean the agreement signed by our foreign minister a month or two months ago in Phnom Penh involving three parties. There will be no pressure. Any relocation of the refugees will be based on voluntary principles. This is clearly written.

[Unidentified correspondent] It seems that there is not enough money for the purpose.

[Anan] Please do not ask me questions starting with "it seems." Well, I do not know it myself. If there was really a problem, the authorities would raise it with the Thai Government.

[Correspondent] The number of refugees is much higher than the number previously estimated.

[Anan] Well, let us talk about facts. Concerning this, if the UN authorities have any problem, they would bring it up with the Thai Government, and certainly not with the press.

[Correspondent] The high commissioner stated that the budget for repatriation is not enough.

[Anan] This is the responsibility of officials to work out with the United Nations. [end recording]

Minister on Joint Petroleum, Natural Gas

BK2101020192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 92 p 19

[Text] PTT Exploration & Production Co (PTTEP), the exploration arm of the national oil firm, the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT), which is developing an offshore natural gas field in Vietnam, is expected to reach a petroleum price agreement with Petro Vietnam soon.

Industry Minister Sippanon Ketuthat, who just returned from the neighbouring country along with a mission of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, said a feasibility study on the field's gas reserves should be jointly conducted first by both agencies before concluding the price.

PTTEP also needs to undertake more drilling to assess whether the production capacity of the White Tiger field, where the Thai firm is exploring for natural gas, can be increased from 75 million cubic feet per day to 100 million, the volume which PTTEP considers as economically viable.

After completing the additional assessment and concluding the price, a gas separation plant, the first of its kind in Vietnam, will be built in the coastal town of Vang Tao, some 100 km from the offshore oil field in southern Vietnam and not very far from Ho Chi Minh City, Dr Sippanon said.

He said the gas output, after separation at the plant, would feed the power station in Ho Chi Minh and the remaining liquefied petroleum and other gases not needed by Vietnam would be exported to Thailand.

Thailand also urged Vietnam to jointly develop gas fields close to the Erawan and Ben Phot gas fields in the Gulf of Thailand, noting that the benefits from joint development would go to both countries, not to third parties.

Dr Sippanon said both countries agreed in principle to give Thailand the first priority to develop Vietnam's petroleum industry, while Thailand is also willing to assist Vietnam by transferring its expertise in this field.

Military, UN To Discuss Mineclearing in Cambodia

BK1801015792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jan 92 p A2

[By Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[Text] A Thai military delegation will travel early next week to the United Nations to hold detailed discussions with officials of the world body its request for a Thai demining team for Cambodia.

The trip follows the Thai governemnt's and army's official endorsement to dispatch a battalion of about 800 army field engineers to deactivate explosive devices, about four million of which were estimated to have been planted over the past decade in the battle zones by both the Vietnam-installed government in Phnom Penh and its rival tripartite guerrillas.

The Thai battalion will operate as part of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC), in full UN uniform and receive UN benefits. It would later be merged with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, scheduled to enter the country in the next few months to oversee the ceasefire and the implementation of peace agreement prior to the UN-organized general elections.

Informed government and army sources said the two-member team will depart possibly early next week for New York for talks with the UN officicials on its actual mandates in the demining operation and their remuneration.

The Thai army has insisted that its mine-clearing troops must enjoy the same UN treatment, financial and fringe benefits as given to other UN forces from other nations while on duty in Cambodia. The UN has requested Thailand to contribute its military personnel to the mine clearing activity, but also asked it to help reduce the cost of the operation, according to the sources.

"We (Thailand) want to be treated in the manner as accorded other countries participating in UN operations in Cambodia.... The United Nations has asked us to help relieve the financial burden of the (demining) programme ... but our duty there will be the most dangerous and so our troops should get the same treatment and benefits like UN officials from other nations," said an army general, who has been a close observer of the Cambodian conflict in the past decade.

Sources said the army has not yet recruited the demining staff, but that the move could be completed within one week as the military has a list of its specialist personnel. The head of the Thai battalion would bear the rank of a colonel and report directly to the UNAMIC military chief Brig Gen Michel Loridon, according to the sources.

Thai troops would work in cloose cooperation with the team from New Zealand, responsible for the mine awareness programme in the war-ravaged nation.

The Thai general, who requested anonymity, said Thailand was asked to conduct the mine-clearing operation taking into account its previous experience in Afghanistan, its proximity to Cambodia, its readiness and knowledge on the ammunition used by the four Cambodian warring parties.

Along with the personnel, Thailand will also send nine sniffer dogs and 15 police dog-handlers.

Mine fields pose as one of the most dangerous threats and obstacles to the repatriation of 350,000 Cambodian refugees from border camps in Thailand, and unless the mine-strewn grounds are cleared of the dangerous explosives, which have until now aimed or killed about 500 people monthly, the whole Cambodian peace process, including the scheduled electrion in 1993 could be delayed.

The Thai team would first demine the main routes of the repatriation especially national Route Number Five. The Thai government has also pledged to reconstruct a 48-km sector of the route between Poipet and Sisophon.

The total cost of the mine-clearing operation is not known yet, but the UN Security Council last week approved dispatching 1,000 UN demining officers and allocated a budget of about US$24 million for the programme.

Official Reserves Reach Highest Recorded Level

BK2101022392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 92 p 26

[Text] Thailand's official reserves at the end of last year stood at US$18,400 million, the highest in the country's history, according to central bank chief spokesman Phisit Li-atham.

He said yesterday that although capital inflow in the form of direct investment and investment on the Thai stock market has declined, total funds brought in by the private sector still grew to $9,675.6 million, representing an increase of $876.5 million over those of the preceding year.

Foreign loans brought in by private firms rose while direct investment declined because labour costs had risen while public utilities and infrastructure were limited.

Thais have also been investing more abroad recently following foreign exchange deregulation by the Bank of Thailand on April 1.

In 1991, the Thai private sector invested $172 million overseas, including Hong Kong, the US and Singapore.

Investment in Indochina was not yet high, he said.

Foreign direct investment in Thailand last year totalled $1,211.2 million, an increase of $338 million on the total for the preceding year, owing to the economic slowdown.

Foreign investment on the Thai stock market last year also dropped by $386 million on 1990's total to only $68.5 million last year, for the same reason.

However foreign loans brought in by private sector rose by $815 million to $6,210.9 million last year. Most of the loans came from Singapore and Hong Kong where interest rates were much lower than in Thailand.

Inflow in the form of baht deposits by those resident abroad totalled $1,957.8 million, an increase of $621.1 million.

Such deposits rose because interest rates in Thailand were generally high.

Other inflows totalled $227.2 million.

Inflation last year was 5.7 percent, which was considered satisfactory, he said.

Candidates Available to Party With Highest Bid

BK1901051892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Although it may be a bit too early for vote buying and selling, some political parties have started "shopping" for candidates with high prospect of winning the election and some hopeful candidates are shamelessly putting themselves up for sale to the highest bidder.

Samakkhi Tham Party [STP] campaign manager in the North Mr Somphong Amonwiwat, told the BANGKOK POST in a recent interview that he was approached last week by two ex-MPs [member's of parliament] who openly asked for 35 million baht if they were to contest under the party's banner.

He declined to name the two former MPs who claimed they had already been promised by another party 25 million baht as down payment with the rest to be paid once they get elected.

"We don't have so much money. So I told them to go ahead taking the given offer," said Mr Somphong, adding he had jokingly told the two that he and several of his candidates would like to join that party as well.

The campaign manager said that some hopeful candidates were demanding more money this time.

Reports received by the BANGKOK POST show a "buying spree" for election hopefuls with the minimum price one million baht, the maximum amount of election expenditure permissible under the new Election Act.

Former Chat Thai MP Songtham Panyadi who is to contest in Chiang Rai claimed that his going price is now five million baht.

He said a party had recently offered him five million baht to leave the Chat Thai Party.

Another party, he added, bid a higher price but he turned down both offers.

A senior politician admitted that the shopping spree is going on.

"But nobody will admit that they have to buy the loyalty of candidates," he said.

Most party members approached by POST reporters denied their parties "bought" candidates.

"Our financial support to a candidate does not exceed one million baht," said a Chat Thai campaigner.

But Mr Somphong admitted that STP paid people who could persuade candidates with high prospects.

He said the maximum one million baht support will be given to each candidate on an installment basis.

He said the party will check if the party's fund is actually spent on campaigning.

But if the contest is fierce, he said more money may be poured into the campaign to help the candidates.

A campaigner of the Social Action Party in Chiang Mai said several politicians had approached the party seeking election candidacy for quick money.

"Once these guys got the money, they disappear," he said, adding that in previous elections some candidates spent less than the amount they had received and barely went out on the campaign trail.

He conceded the election run-up was a period during which old-face politicians emerged to make quick money to settle their old debts.

This was also confirmed by Mr Somphong who recalled a seasoned politician who, after receiving money from his party, did not campaign for fear of meeting with his creditors.

Former Exile Chaloem To Run in Election

BK2001031892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Muan Chon Party leader Chaloem Yubamrung yesterday announced he will stand in the general election and threatened to "reveal all" about the controversial three-million-line telephone expansion project and the alleged plots to assassinate national figures.

Pol Capt [Police Captain] Chaloem, back in his combative style, said he will speak on the two hot issues during a rally his party will stage at Sanam Luang on February 14—Valentine's day.

Shrugging off the low profile he has kept since returning from exile in Denmark last month—when he said he merely wanted to lead a quiet life—Pol Capt Chaloem also lashed out at the Assets Examination Committee headed by Gen Sitthi Chirarot.

The captain said his father has encouraged all members of the Yubamrung family to contest the election because the assets seizure order had damaged them.

Some members and relatives of the family will be running in the poll, he said.

Muang Chon held a members' meeting yesterday morning. In the afternoon, Pol Capt Chaloem told a press conference at the Royal Hotel that he will run in his old Bangkok Constituency 11 while the party will field at least 140 candidates nationwide.

The party will hold a seminar for its candidates at the Ambassador Hotel on February 1 and launch its first rally at Sanam Luang on February 14.

Pol Capt Chaloem said he knows a lot about the multi-billion-baht project for three million more connections.

He claimed the project gives too much benefit to the companies involved and he will reveal what he knows during the rally.

"If I get into government I will scrap this project," Pol Capt Chaloem said.

The project, to be undertaken by the C.P. Telecom, was earlier a cause of tension between the Anan Panyarachun Government and the National Peace-keeping Council.

Pol Capt Chaloem said the defamation case agianst him and the charge that he allegedly bribed witnesses over the alleged assassination plots were a "frame-up."

He said he did not return to politics for revenge but because of a responsibility to the country.

"This assassination case... of which they said they had such tight evidence: How come they have not taken any action against me?" Pol Capt Chaloem asked.

He said he was about to take the assassinaton case to a session of the House Standing Committee, which was to be broadcast live on television, but he never got the chance when the National Peace-keeping Council staged a coup a few days earlier last February 23.

Pol Capt Chaleom yesteday also said that Central Investigation Bureau Comissioner Pol Lt-Gen Thanu Homhuan, who is now in charge of probing the assassination plots, and Police Chief Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat should not be too busy with the missing Saudi diamonds.

"I have something to give these two at the Sanam Luang rally," Pol Capt Chaloem said.

He said he will certainly appeal against the assets seizure order this week. He insisted he did not have as much as 138 million baht in his bank account as is alleged.

"If it is true they should show the evidence on television so that the people will come and lynch me," he challenged.

"The Assets Examination Committee members are all thevada (deity). They can do anything. We are forbidden from suing them in civil or criminal proceedings."

Pol Capt Chaloem said it is unfair of the committee to inflate the figures of his assets by using potential market value and bank credit statements without subtracting large debts of his family's business ventures.

He said the Government-allotted television time for political party campaigns should be live rather than pretaped. If it was live, people could call up and test the party leader.

Pol Capt Chaloem also outlined his party's policies for the development of Thailand and claimed that the Anan Government gave importance only to big business and industries while neglecting farmers, worker and small businesses.

He said that in principle he agreed with value-added tax but thought that the method of its implementation was unacceptable.

"This is an appointed government and there is no opposition in Parliament so whatever it does is right even though it has caused so much hardship to the people," Pol Capt Chaloem charged.

Army Chief Warns Against Attacking Military

BK2101010392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Jan 92 p A1

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun gave politicians a warning yesterday against attacking the military during their election campaigns.

"If the damage (from politicians' attacks) makes it impossible to explain ourselves to the public, we have other means (of defending ourselves)," Suchinda told reporters.

Asked what the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) might do to counter politicians' criticism, Suchinda said: "I can't say what we will do. It will depend on circumstances. Anyway, I don't know how serious the attacks will be."

Some major political parties have vowed to give the controversial Constitution high priority in their campaign agendas. The charter, passed by the NPKC-installed interim legislature, has been widely criticized because it may enable the military to continue controlling Thai politics after the next general election.

The charter empowers NPKC Chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong to appoint the first post-election Senate, which can oust the government in a censure vote or by derailing a royal decree.

Populist Bangkok Governor Chamlong Simuang, who is quitting the city administration this week to run in the March 22 election, has said he is entering national politics partly because it would be easier for him to campaign for changes to the Constitution.

Another staunch critic of the military is Suchinda's predecessor, New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

Asked if he had any "advice" for Chawalit, Suchinda said: "I'm not supposed to do that. He's already smart."

Attacks on the military will likely come from politicians who have come under NPKC-ordered investigation for being allegedly corrupt.

Most of the politicians are expected to run in the election and hope that poll victories will clear their names and embarrass the military.

Muanchon Party leader Chaloem Yubamrung, who was driven into exile after the NPKC toppled the elected Chatchai government last February, announced after his recent return he would be running for a Bangkok seat to restore his reputation.

Chaloem said on Sunday he would "tell all" about why he had to flee to Denmark during a Muanchon rally at Sanam Luang on Feb 14.

Cabinet Approves Anti-Dumping Draft

BK2101025592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Jan 92 p 17

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved the draft of an Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duty Bill to protect domestic producers and traders against cheap imports which are dumped or subsidised by other countries.

Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said yesterday the new law would defend Thailand's position with the gradual liberalisation of its trade policy.

He said that because of the fast changing world economic scene and the outcome of the Uruguay Round talks of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Thailand needed to adjust.

Thailand must soon reduce its trade barriers, especially import tariffs, following the GATT talks, and this could give countries a chance to dump their products in Thailand.

Under the new law, if any imports are found to adversely affect local production or exports, surcharges on top of normal tariff payments could be imposed on the grounds that these imports were sold cheaply or received subsidies.

The Commerce Ministry will set up a committee chaired by the Commerce permanent secretary and comprising all related government and private agencies to oversee application of the law. Two sub-committees, one to investigate and the other to hear appeals, have been set up.

Vietnam

Aims of Bush's Asia-Pacific Tour 'Not Fulfilled'

BK2001104692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 11 Jan 92

["Essay" by Duong Quang Minh: "What Can Be Seen Through the U.S. President's Asia-Pacific Tour"]

[Text] U.S. President Bush has just completed a 10-day visit to four countries in the Asia-Pacific. He first went to Australia, then Singapore, followed by South Korea, and concluded his visit with a four-day trip to Japan.

The U.S. President's tour had two aims. The first was to assure them of new protection and that the United States will continue to keep its promises to these countries. The second, which was far more important than the first—to hold trade negotiations with the four countries, mainly with Japan, in order to counter the criticism of U.S. voters that "President Bush has not paid any attention to domestic issues."

Apparently, the world realizes that President Bush does not have the confidence to confirm that countries in the region have accepted U.S. promises. Furthermore, President Bush had complained that U.S. allies have been hesitant in sharing its military expenses and in allowing the continued use of their naval and air force bases.

How about trade? The economic role of the U.S. is not as respected as it used to be. In the Australian cities of Sydney and Canberra, President Bush met thousands of farmers gathered at the parliament to protest against the U.S. Export Enhancement Program, which provides subsidies to U.S. farmers for their agricultural exports. The protestors stated that this subsidy program had caused Australian farmers to lose at least 550 million Australian dollars or $420 million last year. The protesters also carried the banner: New Wheat Order Not New World Order.

On his arrival in South Korea, President Bush started by calling on South Korea to speed up the liberalization of its domestic market. ROK President No Tae-u replied by warning that the U.S. should try to understand South Korea's current economic difficulties. Later, President No promised only to implement measures that would contribute to the success of the Uruguay Round. While Mr. Bush delivered a speech at the ROK parliament on the afternoon of 6 January calling for the opening of its agricultural markets, South Korean farmers and students were protesting against those calls. The protesters also burned the American flag and an American rice sack, displaying their feelings against the U.S. domination of the South Korean economy.

What about Japan? The U.S. and Japan issued a joint communique on a strategy for world economic development, but their bilateral trade ties are still uneasy. The U.S. President and the Japanese prime minister held four rounds of talks on many issues. The U.S. demanded that Japan open its market to U.S. commodities including cars, computers, and agricultural products. Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe said Japan had made some concessions in the negotiations but that they could not give in completely to U.S. demands. He believes the U.S. has not realized that Japan has tried its best to compromise.

At the 8 January banquet held by the Japanese prime minister, the U.S. president collapsed at the dining table and disgorged his food in the presence of 130 guests. Mr. Bush was led back to the guest house and his spokesperson later said he had an upset stomach.

During the visit, demonstrations were held in many places. Hundreds of students and consumers demonstrated at the Shimbashi railway station in the center of Tokyo. They handed protest letters and sent a giant rice cake to President Bush at the American Embassy to protest against U.S. pressure on Japan to open its rice market.

The NEW YORK TIMES Magazine in its 5 January issue correctly assessed the U.S.-Japanese talks. It said the activities of President Bush were only meant to serve his presidential election campaign. The magazine writes: Although Bush would be urging Japan to open its market and to purchase more U.S. commodities, this is just an attempt to garner domestic votes. However, if Bush tries to transfer the U.S. recession to Japan, this attempt contains ideological, political, and economical dangers. The magazine also held that the cause of the U.S. recession was not due to unfair trading by Japan but that U.S. companies do not know how to penetrate the Japanese market. Therefore, it was not certain that Bush would make any progress during his visit.

There are many issues that need to be discussed on President Bush's Asia-Pacific tour during the U.S. election year. Mr. Bush is trying to attract votes but the results of his visit show that his aims have not quite been fulfilled.

KGB Interrogation of U.S. POW's Denied

BK2001151392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] On 20 January, the Vietnam office for the search of U.S. servicemen missing in action sent a message to the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi. The message says:

1. With regard to a statement by Soviet General Oleg Kalugin that KGB personnel questioned a number of U.S. POWs in Vietnam from 1975 to 1978, the Vietnamese side has affirmed that this was an ill-intentioned fabrication. However, sympathizing with the concern of the people, Congress, and Government of the United States, Vietnam has conducted serious and careful investigations into this matter.

2. The result of these investigations showed that there was no interrogation of U.S. prisoners of war by KGB personnel after the U.S. troop withdrawal in 1973 and after the end of the Vietnam war in 1975. The investigations showed that there was only one contact between KGB personnel and a U.S. prisoner of war by the name of Eugene Andre Weaver. Mr. Weaver was captured by Vietnam in Hue city on 31 January 1968. Upon learning that Mr. Weaver was an American of Russian origin, the Soviet side requested to meet with him, and the request was accepted by the Vietnamese side. In January 1973, a KGB official, Mr. Oleg Mechiporenko, met Mr. Weaver on one occasion. The meeting did not resume later because Mr. Weaver refused to meet with him again. In March 1973, the Vietnamese side returned Mr. Weaver to the U.S. side.

3. The abovementioned discussion between a Russian intelligence agent and a U.S. prisoner of war of Russian origin was the only such meeting that occured, and took place before Vietnam's return of U.S. prisoners of war in 1973. This event should not be used as an excuse to cook up the story about Russian intelligence agents questioning U.S. prisoners of war after the end of the war.

NHAN DAN Cited on POW Issue

BK2101072092 Hanoi VNA in English 0636 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 21—NHAN DAN today urges the U.S. Government and Congress not to use the MIA-POW issue as a political issue to block the processs toward normalisation of Vietnamese-American relations.

The paper recalls the note of the Vietnam MIA Office which affirmed that all American POW's were returned to the U.S. side in 1973 and goes on:

"We would like to repeat again that in line with its traditional humane policy, Vietnam always holds that the MIA issue is a purely humanitarian issue and it has unilaterally solved this issue without setting any condition. The American Government should make the American people understand the truth about the MIA issue and be wary of tendentious information. They should take measures to prevent and punish those who have been playing upon the sufferings of American families and who continue their inhuman acts in face of the Vietnamese Government and people's extremely humane policy. It is best that the U.S. side takes steps to accelerate the normalization of the relations betwwen the two countries so as to put an early end to the MIA issue; this will meet the aspiration and interests of both peoples".

Reportage on Vo Van Kiet's Malaysia Visit

Hanoi Updates on Trip

BK1901155792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, on 19 January Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet left Hanoi for an official friendship visit to Malaysia.

Accompanying the Council of Ministers chairman were Nguyen Manh Cam, foreign minister; Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of State Commission for Cooperation and Investment; Ngo Xuan Loc, minister of construction; Vu Khoan, deputy foreign minister; Pham Minh Hac, deputy minister of education and training; Le Kha, deputy minister of communications, transportation and post; Nguyen Dinh Quang, deputy minister of culture, information and sports; Le Van Chau, deputy governor of the Vietnam State Bank; Vu Dinh Thuan, deputy head of the Council of Ministers Office, and other high-ranking officials of the Vietnamese Government.

During this visit, Vietnam and Malaysia will exchange views and discuss measures aimed at strengthening and expanding bilateral friendship and multifaceted cooperation, which have shown prospects for fine development. This visit and the recent visits to Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore by Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet will contribute to strengthening better understanding and mutual trust among countries in the region, thereby creating new opportunities for developing friendship and cooperation in the region and contributing to building a new Southeast Asia of peace, stability, cooperation, and development.

Vo Van Kiet, Mahathir Hold Talks

BK2001161392 Hanoi VNA in English 1541 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 20—Talks were held in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon between visiting Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet and Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohamed on issues of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

The two sides expressed their great pleasure over the rapid development of the friendship and cooperation in various fields, especially over last year, between Vietnam and Malaysia. They welcomed the increased exchanges of visits of delegations of different branches and levels, which helped promote the mutual understanding between the two peoples. With regard to the economic and commercial cooperation, the two sides reviewed the fine implementation of the March 1991 agreement, and were satisfied with the rapid increase of goods exchanges, the expansion of investment cooperation in the fields of natural gas and oil, agriculture, mineral exploitation, aviation, finance, banking and personnel training. The two sides agreed to sign an agreement on investment protection and promotion, and to continue negotiating to quickly finalize a maritime navigation agreement and other agreements. The two sides also agreed to broaden the cooperation in culture, education, construction and rural development.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the positive development of the situation in Southeast Asia which has opened to great possiblities for regional cooperation for the sake of peace and development.

Malaysia welcomed and fully supported Vietnam's intention to join in the Bali Friendship and Cooperation Treaty in 1976, as well as its dialogue with the ASEAN members. The Vietnamese side expressed support for Malaysia's initiative on an Asian economic forum, considering it a contribution to the trend of dialogue among the countries in the region.

The two sides wished to contribute to the turning of Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, cooperation and development. They welcomed the signing of the agreement on an overall political solution to the Cambodia issue and expressed their support for the process of peace, national reconciliation and concord in Cambodia aimed at building it into a country of peace, independence, neutrality and non-alignment.

The two sides stressed that at present, the world order must be based on the respect for independence and sovereignty of every nation, big and small, non-use of threat and non-interference. As the two developing countries, they stressed their wish to contribute to South-South cooperation.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet invited Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed to visit Vietnam. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, sincerity, and in the spirit of cooperation.

This evening, a grand banquet was given by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed and his wife at their private villa in honour of Chairman Vo Van Kiet, his wife and the Vietnamese high-level government delegation.

Commentary Views Visit

BK2101063692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Premier Vo Van Kiet's current visit to Malaysia following those to Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore in October last year demonstrates Vietnam's policy to have friendly relations with all countries regardless of political system. This also testifies to the fact that in her external relations Vietnam pays special attention to broadening cooperation with nations in Southeast Asia with a view to turning this region into one of peace, stability, and development and contributing to stability and development elsewhere in the world.

Notably, this visit to Malaysia by Premier Vo Van Kiet was made in the wake of the successful visit to Vietnam by Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun. During Mr. Anan's visit to Vietnam as well as Kiet's visit to Thailand last year important agreements have been made, thus strengthening bilateral relations in many fields and friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnam-Malaysia relationship has been fine so far. Both countries have contributed greatly to the peaceful settlement of the Cambodian issue. Bilateral economic ties have been particularly active. Businessmen and officials of the two countries have exchanged visits on many occasions over the past years. In 1990 two-way trade value between Vietnam and Malaysia was $15 million; the figure went up considerably in 1991. In August 1991 Malaysian Financial Minister Anwar Ibrahim visited Vietnam. During the working session with his Vietnamese counterpart, the two sides agreed on Malaysia's assistance in training personnel for Vietnam and on exchange of experiences in this domain. In September the same year, Petronas of Malaysia signed a contract with Vietnam Oil and Gas General Department on prospection, exploration, and exploitation of oil and gas on Lot 1 and 2 on the southern continental shelf of Vietnam. This project is under way and productive. Petronas not only shares experience with but also helps train petroleum workers for Vietnam.

Meanwhile, Vietnam issued license for Malaysia's Public Bank in a joint venture with Vietnam's Investment and Development Bank. This joint banking activity is going ahead with $10 million investment capital, equally shared by both sides. It is expected to start operation this year.

Malaysia has also welcomed Vietnam's joining the 1976 Bali Treaty as reported by the STRAITS TIMES of Malaysia. Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohammad said Malaysia sees no reason to refuse Vietnam's proposal to be a member of the ASEAN.

It is believed that Premier Vo Van Kiet's visit to Malaysia will usher in a new stage of development in Vietnam-Malaysia relations, strengthen bilateral cooperation and mutual understanding, and help turn Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, cooperation, and development.

Paper on Relations With Malaysia

BK2001074592 Hanoi VNA in English 0621 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 20—The trade exchange between Vietnam and Malaysia has soared from 20 million USD in 1985 to 51 million in 1989 and is expected to reach 100 million U.S. dollars in the coming period, says NHAN DAN in an article occasioned by Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet's current visit to Malaysia.

The paper says :

Malaysia is a close neighbour of Vietnam. The two countries set up diplomatic relations in 1973 and signed trade agreement in 1978.

Last year, the ministers of finance, foreign trade and industry and many other high-ranking officials as well as economic experts of Malaysia came to Vietnam to exchange experiences in many fields. Petronas of Malaysia has signed a 25-year agreement with Petro Vietnam on the exploration and exploitation of oil at lots 1 and 2 on Vietnam's continental shelf. Major corporations such as Mass (aviation) Pernas (construction), Bunmiputra (banking), MMC (mining) and Harrisom, Guthri and Sime Darby (farming) have come to inquire into possiblities of investment and cooperation in rubber plantation and processing, coal and tin mining, joint ventures in textile, banking, aviation, tourism, etc.

This Malaysia visit of Premier Vo Van Kiet will certainly bring to a new high the relations of good neighbourliness between Vietnam and Malaysia, the paper concludes.

NHAN DAN on Potential Cooperation With Thailand

BK1801071692 Hanoi VNA in English 0641 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 18—The national paper NHAN DAN in an editorial today on the conclusion of Vietnam visit by Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun describes as great the Vietnam-Thai potential of cooperation.

The paper says :

"Vivid realities affirm that there are now favourable conditions to leave the past behind, look forwards to the future, and strengthen mutual understanding and trust and multi-sided cooperation between the two countries. The two sides are gratified at the rapid progress in the relation between the two countries, particularly in the economic field. Some agreements were signed and others are being finalized. Agreement has also been reached in many important domains. Trade value between the two countries has increased. The protocol amending the

1978 agreement on trade, economic and technical cooperation signed on this occasion has created a stable foundation for the development of the cooperative relations betweeen the two countries. Those agreements together with the remarkable increase of the meetings at all levels and branches between both sides clearly show the goodwill and determination of the two countries' leaders and peoples to broaden cooperation in many fields in the new period".

The paper goes on :

"Over the last three months, great and profound changees have taken place in the region and the world, in the trend of peace and friendship, creating a more favourable environment for all nations in eaceful developments. The Vietnam-Thailand cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and in the two peoples' aspirations not only contributes to the benefit of the region but also plays an important role in international life".

Radio Commentator on Results of Anan Visit

BK1901084592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Commentary by Duong Quang Minh: "A Historic Landmark in Vietnamese-Thai Friendship and Cooperation"]

[Text] His Excellency Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, has successfully concluded his official friendship visit to Vietnam at the invitation of Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Thai prime minister's visit to Vietnam lasted only three days but the visit and the agreements reached by the two sides are of important significance.

The Vietnamese and Thai sides signed a protocol amending the 1978 agreement on economic, scientific-technological, and trade cooperation and agreed to continue negotiations on agreements on the avoidance of double taxation; on cooperation in maritime research, tourism, and postal service; and on amendments to the agreement on maritime navigation.

The two sides also agreed on the establishment of general consulates, and so forth.

First of all, as far as the Thai prime minister's visit is concerned, it is worth noting that the Vietnamese and Thai sides ascertained that the visit was a memorable historic event. The reason is because in their long history of relations, this is the first official visit to Vietnam by a Thai government leader. This is in fact proof that a new era has opened up in the relations between the two countries.

Through their talks and contacts, the Vietnamese and Thai sides expressed their joy over the rapid improvements of relations.

In his speech at a banquet in honor of the prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, the SRV Council of Ministers chairman stressed: Our meeting this time takes place only three months after a previous one, showing that the friendship and cooperation between our two countries have developed at a new pace, on a wider scale, and in a deeper dimension. Three months are a short period of time. Yet, during these months, Vietnamese-Thai relations have undergone positive changes. Contacts between representatives of the various sectors and echelons have been regular. This has contributed to increasing mutual understanding and has opened up prospects for increased cooperation in various domains.

In his reply speech, the Thai prime minister also stressed: The friendly and frank talks on various issues have created a better understanding of both countries' positions and have paved the way for increased cooperation in the future. I am pleased to note that in less than three months, our common efforts to strengthen bilateral relations have brought about concrete results, thus contributing to establishing a more solid groundwork for a new era in Thai-Vietnamese relations, based on mutual understanding and cooperation to benefit the common interests of our two peoples.

Another point known to everyone is the fact that important and profound changes have taken place in the world and Southeast Asia. As far as our region is concerned, the trend toward peace and cooperation has gained momentum every passing day. The Paris agreement on an overall political solution to the Cambodian issue has been signed, opening up the prospects for peace and national reconciliation and concord for the Cambodian people as well as for stability in the region.

The relations between Vietnam and countries in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region as well as other nations have improved considerably.

Against this background, the consolidation of Vietnamese-Thai friendship and cooperation is a major contribution to this trend.

Once again, the Thai side stressed: Vietnam is an important country in the region. We in Thailand firmly believe that efforts to further strengthen cooperation among Southeast Asian countries will help Vietnam fulfill its worthy role in the region as well as in the world community.

His Excellency Anan Panyarachun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, and other Thai guests highly valued Vietnam's hospitality and warm welcome extended to the Thai delegation. Thanks to our warm feelings, we have returned the hospitality that the Thai side had reserved for Chairman Vo Van Kiet during his visit to Thailand late last year. Both visits took place in a warm, jubilant atmosphere when the two government leaders ascertained that it was certain that with both sides' goodwill attitude, trust, and resolve, we would head for a new horizon and the relations between our two countries would bring about increasingly fine results.

Foreign Minister Congratulates Polish Counterpart

BK1701110092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 3 Jan 92

[Text] On 2 January 1992, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam sent a congratulatory message to Professor Krzysztof Skubiszewski on the occasion of the latter's reappointment as Polish foreign minister.

Foreign Currency Trading Center Session Reported

BK1701110292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 2 Jan 92

[Text] This afternoon, on 2 January in Hanoi, the Hanoi Foreign Currency Trading Center opened its 10th trading session.

The exchange rate at the beginning of trading was 11,600 dong per U.S. dollar. There were three units of foreign currency sold and four units of foreign currency bought with a total trading volume of $210,000 at the exchange rate of 11,690 dong per dollar.

Next Wednesday [8 January], the center will open its 11th trading session.

Papua New Guinea

Government, Rebels in North Hold Peace Talks

BK1701055492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Despite peace talks today on the secessionist Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville, the crisis caused by the seizure of a relief supply ship continues. (Michael Troy) reports from Port Moresby that members of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] in the north of the island wanted to lay down their arms, but in the south they remain defiant.

[Begin (Troy) recording] Today's peace ceremony at Tinputz has been described by the government as a breakthrough in the three-year old crisis. However, BRA leaders in the south of the island say they will not recognize the ceremony and have warned rebels in the north that the security forces may arrest them once they lay down their arms.

Meanwhile, in the port of Kieta, the supply ship, M. V. Cosmaris, is still being held by the BRA. As a result, all shipping and flight services to the area have been suspended, effectively trapping an Australian doctor and a nurse who travelled to Kieta on the ship to begin an immunization program.

The Red Cross says the two are safe and well. However, the BRA says it believes the Defense Forces are planning to rescue the ship and crew—a move they say will cause more bloodshed. [end recording]

Northern Faction To Surrender

BK2001061492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] In Papua New Guinea [PNG], another faction of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] has surrendered. (Gregory Manao) and about 16 of his followers join 30 rebels who agreed to lay down they arms last Friday in the north of Bougainville Island.

PNG's acting Defense Minister, Brown Sinamoi, said the surrender, which has occurred at the village of Tinputz, was unexpected and he called on other rebels to follow the group's example. He says the move carved the way for government services to be restored to the northeast part of the island.

Meanwhile, in the south of Bougainville, there are indications according to Mr. Sinamoi that the BRA will soon release the ship which has been held hostage at Kieta for more than a week. An Australian doctor from the ship, (Damian Wolfhart), is negotiating with BRA leaders in Kieta to try to free the vessel.

Namaliu Sees End To Troubles

BK2001083292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG]'s Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu says an end in sight to the troubles on Bougainville island. He said the peace ceremony in north Bougainville on Friday clearly showed that lasting peace can be achieved with proper dialogue and understanding. Rebel leader (Gregory Manao) and 16 of his soldiers unexpectedly join 30 members of the rebel Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA], who had earlier agreed to surrender at the ceremony to allow government services to be restored in the area.

Mr. Namaliu said the agreement was a major breakthrough and appeals to BRA leaders to act responsively and end the hardships faced by the people.

Rebels Seek 'Formal' Talks

BK2101070992 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The rebels on Bougainville island have called for formal negotiations with the Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government, before they can consider the release of the cargo vessel, Cosmaris, held by them in Bougainville's Kieta harbor since 10 January, in a letter to PNG's Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Akoka Doi sent through Honiara late yesterday.

The rebels propose that the negotiations be held in Honiara as soon as possible. The message added that the demands of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA], put to Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu soon after the Cosmaris was seized, still stand. These include the restoration of unrestricted shipping and air services to Bougainville. The message adds that the captain and crew of the Cosmaris are safe and well and are freely mixing with the people in Kieta.

Vanuatu

Insurance Against Rising Sea Levels Sought

OW1801044492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0332 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 18 KYODO—Island and low-lying countries have called for establishing an insurance system to save them from possible rises in sea levels caused by gradual global warming, government officials said Saturday.

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), consisting of 34 countries in the Southern Pacific such as Kiribati and Vanuatu, have made the request in negotiations on an international treaty on preventive measures for global warming. Under the AOSIS proposal, industrial countries would donate funds for the insurance in accordance with their gross national products and emissions of carbon dioxide for 10 years after the treaty takes effect. The countries affected by sea level rises stemming from global warming would be given insurance money under the system.

Scientists estimate that global warming could raise sea levels up to 60 centimeters by the end of 21st century. The proposal will be discussed in the sixth round of negotiations starting February 18 in New York, the officials said.